

# Middletown Resource Recycling Commission

## Regular meeting

### October 20, 2014

Members Present: Monica Belyea, Rebecca Maclachlan, Debbie Stanley, Jennifer Weymouth.

Others Present: Darryl Gagnon, Kim O'Rourke, Recycling Coordinator.

Ms. Winston called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Ms. O'Rourke said she would follow up on Mr. Gagnon's appointment.

No other members of the public were present.

Recycling Coordinator's Report –

**Facebook Page** – Ms. O'Rourke said she initiated a Middletown Recycling and Public Works facebook page. She encouraged everyone to “like” it and pass it on to friends.

**Mattresses** – Ms. O'Rourke said she met with the Mattress Recycling Council at the Recycling Center to discuss recycling of mattresses when the program starts. The mattresses will have to be kept dry in a sea-worthy container. The representative looked at the mattresses at the Recycling Center and felt they were all acceptable. Changes might have to be made to the curbside collection program.

**Sanitation Single Stream** – Ms. O'Rourke reported that the single stream pilot was a great success. Garbage tonnages have gone down. Recycling has gone up. Bill Russo has proposed expanding it to Bretton Rd and the side streets off of Bretton and Dora Drive.

**Textile Recycling** – Ms. O'Rourke said she met with Baystate Textiles about textile recycling on municipal properties, particularly schools. They offer a program to pay for textiles and provide clean, nice looking containers for any school that wants one. They also can provide school programs for the children and contests amongst the schools. The money can go back to the town or back to the schools. Recycling members felt it should go to the schools. Ms. O'Rourke said she would propose the idea to the schools. Members felt boxes could also be placed at City Hall, the Senior Center and the Library.

**Project Green Lawn** – Ms. O'Rourke organized a field trip to Branford for this coming Friday. The Superintendent of Parks and a ground crew member will be attending. We will be speaking with Dr. Jerry Silbert, of the Watershed Partnership, and Alex Palluzzi, Director of Parks and Recreation in Branford and touring the fields.

**Holiday lights** – Ms O'Rourke is pleased to announce the City will be accepting Holiday lights for recycling at the E-waste container at the Recycling Center. Lights can be dropped off Nov – January.

## **Chairman's Report**

Ms. Winston felt the City's Hazardous Waste Event was the most productive ever. Even though the weather didn't cooperate, there were many cars and the line moved efficiently.

However, members felt better publicity is needed for the Medicine Take Back program at the Police Department. The information doesn't come out until right before the event and even when it is happening, its hard to know where.

Ms. Winston reported on Dr. Silbert's presentation on October 9<sup>th</sup>. She said it was an exceptional powerpoint and very interesting presentation. She did wish more people attended. There will be another one, similar, but slightly different focus on Nov. 18 at the Rockfall Foundation.

## **Swap Shack**

Sat. Oct. 25 – Krishna/Daryll

Wed. Oct. 29 – Debbie

Sat. Nov. 5 – Monica

Ms. O'Rourke will send the other dates out to the others on the commission. Members suggested she send something out on the facebook page to look for more volunteers to help organize the Swap Shack.

**DEEP Visit** – The commissioner of DEEP visited Middletown in October. They gave a powerpoint presentation of solid waste management in CT and examples of how Middletown can continue its leadership. Suggestions include:

- Lead by example as a Zero Waste community
- Support state wide Product Stewardship efforts
- Provide input on new Comprehensive Materials Management Strategy for the State
- Consider Organics recycling pilot
- Considering unit based pricing
- Evaluate use of Closed Loop Recycling Fund

## **Connecticut Recycles Day**

Ms. O'Rourke said she was going to do an event in City Hall to encourage recycling and ask people to come up with ideas to help the City become Zero Waste. Anyone who provides a suggestion, will get a free water bottle. Ms. Winston suggested offering the pledge as well. It will need to be updated.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kim O'Rourke*

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Recycling Coordinator

