

Middletown Resource Recycling Advisory Commission

Regular Meeting

Sept. 9, 2015

Members Present: Krishna Winston, Alison Johnson, Darrell Gagnon, Chantal DeArmitt, Izzy Guy, Debbie Stanley.

Member Not Present: Rebecca MacLachlan, Harold Panciera.

Others Present: Kim O'Rourke, Recycling Coordinator

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Mr. Gagnon made and Ms. DeArmitt seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the August regular meeting as presented. All voted in favor.

Ms. O'Rourke reported that the schools were having trouble recycling this year. Over the summer, recycling carts were removed and replaced with dumpsters. However, it left many of the schools with no way to collect the recycling. Ms. O'Rourke was working with the new facilities director to correct the problem, but the timing was most unfortunate. Members felt this was a great opportunity to invite the new director to the recycling commission to meet him and discuss recycling in the schools. Ms. O'Rourke said she would extend an invitation.

The textile bin from Baystate Textiles has been placed at the middle school. Ms. O'Rourke will send a picture of it out to members. Proceeds from what is collected in the bin will go to the recycling efforts at WWMS.

Ms. O'Rourke said the single stream carts were distributed to the Wesleyan area. The first pick up was Sept. 1st, but it was really too early to see what was happening. There were just a few carts out and a lot of contamination. The next pick up is Sept. 15th.

All the Big Belly recycling containers on Main St were broken into. The lock was ruined on all but one of them. The locks are being replaced, but if it happens

again, we may think about leaving them open. Mrs. Dearmitt suggested using a key code for the lock.

Ms. O'Rourke said she was continuing to work on the waste reduction grant with the schools, but since school started, she hasn't heard much from them. She is continuing to work on the unit based pricing grant with the consultant. Also, she will be contacting the Closed Loop Fund again to see if there is an opportunity to get a loan for single stream carts for the District.

Members discussed the swap shack and the possibility of getting it painted. They thought the City could paint the outside and perhaps volunteers could do the inside. Ms. O'Rourke said she would mention it to the Director again.

Ms. Winston, Mrs. Dearmitt, Mr. Gagnon and Ms. O'Rourke are going to meet at the Recycling Center to look at sign placement to make it easier for people to find their way.

Swap Shack Schedule

Sept. 12	Chantal
Sept. 16	Krishna
Sept. 19	Chantal
Sept. 26	Krishna
Oct. 7	Alison
Oct 14	Izzy
Oct. 17	Chantal

Members reviewed the Open Air Market. They felt the flow was good until 3pm. Many people did not know about the free electronics recycling. There was a lot of interest in the textile bin at WWMS. They did feel there was not enough recycling at the event and next year would like to play a larger role to make sure there is adequate recycling. We need a bin at the table. And provide more containers throughout the event. We should also try to compost the food waste from this event. Ms. O'Rourke will talk to Deborah Moore about getting more involved.

Events coming up: Shred Event on Sept. 12 and Hazardous Waste event on Sept. 19. Members signed up to volunteer at each event.

America Recycles Day is coming November 15. Members decided it would be great to send a recycling message through all the school children. Ms. O'Rourke is also scheduled to table at the coffee hours at St. Pius Church.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim O'Rourke
Recycling Coordinator