

Middletown Resource Recycling Advisory Commission
Regular Meeting
January 25, 2016

Members present: Alison Johnson, Izzy Guy, Monica Belyea, Darrell Gagnon, Krishna Winston, Debbie Stanley

Others Present: Bessie Bianco, Kim O'Rourke

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

Members reviewed the December 9, 2015 minutes. Darrel Gagnon said he was present at that meeting and asked that the minutes be corrected. The minutes were approved with that one correction.

Recycling Coordinator Report

Ms. O'Rourke reported that funding was approved and every customer in the District will receive a cart for single stream recycling. The plan is to roll out the carts in the spring.

The food service and facilities director from the Board of Education are planning to visit Wesleyan to see how they collect food waste for composting. Ms. O'Rourke is hoping they can start separating food waste in the kitchen at WWMS and then expand to the café.

Ms. O'Rourke said she was working with Carabetta to improve recycling at Rose Circle. Once this is completed, they will move to the other complexes. She went through the complex to mark the dumpsters that needed recycling carts next to them and then is making sure each recycling container has a label on it. A flyer will also be distributed to all the tenants.

Ms. O'Rourke said she is planning to put the Greenhouse up for Auction. She is in the process of putting the paperwork together.

Bids came back for the cardboard and single stream recycling. The markets are down, so pricing was much lower than the previous two years. It still will not cost the City anything and is much more economical than the garbage tip fee.

Chairman's Report

Ms. Winston asked that the city website be corrected with the name of this group as a "commission".

Members asked what the status is of the cardboard compactor at the recycling center. Ms. O'Rourke said she would check into it.

Ms. Winston said she spoke at the Common Council meeting in support of the funding for the single stream carts. The appropriation passed and we are planning to get the carts in the spring for distribution throughout the District.

Members decided to do a table at the RiverFest. They also discussed composting food waste at the event. Ms. O'Rourke said she would raise the issue at the Feet to the Fire meeting the next day.

Swap shack Schedule

Jan 27 Krishna
Feb 3 Debbie
Feb 6 Krishna (with Bessie)
Feb 10 Izzy
Feb 17 Alison
Feb 20 Chantal

Old Business

Mr. Gagnon reported that he met with representatives from the Durham Fair to solicit information. They collected 4.5 tons of organics at the fair. They used HQ Dumpsters and Recycling. They used buckets from Home Depot with compostable liners. If the vendor participated, they had a sign for them to display. He thought we might want to consider partnering with the Vo Ag students to get volunteers. This should also be done for other City events as well, not just the Open Air Market and the Riverfest.

Ms. O'Rourke said the Shred Event was scheduled for Saturday, April 23, 9 – 11am.

Janice from RiverCog has offered the date of August 27th for their regional shred date. Members did not like this date because it was the same weekend as the Open Air Market, so they would not be available to help and it is still summertime. People are not really thinking about shredding. They asked Ms. O'Rourke to relay this information back to RiverCog and ask for different date.

New Business

Ms. O'Rourke said she had a waste audit schedule for St. Pius Church in April. She reviewed the project calendar for 2016.

Ms. Guy recommended having a brainstorming session to generate ideas of what the City could do. Members discussed meeting in mid-March.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim O'Rourke

Kim O'Rourke
Recycling Coordinator