

Middletown Resource Recycling Advisory Commission

Regular Meeting

December 8, 2014

Members present: Monica Belyea, Darrell Gagnon, Alison Johnson, Krishna Winston

Others present: Kim O'Rourke, Recycling Coordinator

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

Minutes of the November meeting we accepted as presented.

Ms. O'Rourke reported that she visited all the offices in City Hall for America Recycles Day and collected ideas for improving the sustainability activities in the building. Suggestions included: putting a plant in each office, requiring that all computers be shut down at the end of the day, removing the paper towels and using high powered hand dryers and installing jugless water stations.

Baystate Textiles met with Ms. O'Rourke to discuss the program they are offering to buy textiles for recycling. They can put containers on all municipal properties, including schools. Ms. O'Rourke said she is in contact with the schools and hoping to start a collection program in some of the schools.

A Consultant for DEEP contacted Ms. O'Rourke about participating in a program to study the City's solid waste system. They are choosing five communities to work with to analyze the solid waste system and offer suggestions to improving it to save money and reduce waste. Ms. O'Rourke will be meeting with them next week to discuss the idea further.

Single stream is moving forward in the Sanitation District. Containers were ordered for Bretton Road and the side streets off of Bretton and Dora Drive. Single Stream has been working very well in the Jacobs Road/Chimney Hill area.

The Christmas Light Recycling has been installed at the recycling center. Gift card recycling has started at City Hall. Ms. O'Rourke is still working on the building for cooking oil.

Ms. Winston reported that the ECoin group is researching the artificial turf issue because the Parks Division seems to be interested in including it in a bonding issue for November. She felt the economics of the turf have to be researched and presented. She asked what the best way is to get the word out to parents.

Swap Shack Schedule

Dec. 10 - Krishna

Dec. 17 - Monica

Dec. 24 - Krishna

Jan 3 - Darrell

Darrell felt it would be helpful to paint the swap shack inside and out and change the sign out front.

Members discussed programs for the spring – including the shred event on April 25 and a compost bin & rain barrel sale.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim O'Rourke

Recycling Coordinator