

# RECYCLING CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES- Meeting Date 09 Apr 2014 (Draft Copy)

**PRESENT:** Craig Flaherty (Chair), Dot Kelly, Carolyn Bayne, Finley Wetmore, Terry Gaffney. Also present: Sally Ijams- Darien Library, Susie Flaherty- Royle School Green Team, Michael Lynch- Darien Board of Education- Director of Operations

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:** Move to approve as written with insertion of 'Yellow Grease' as industry name for 'cooking oil', seconded and approved unanimously.

**BUDGET-** Town made a line item transfer of Ten Thousand Dollars within the DPW budget to cover the educational and public information initiatives this committee oversees.

## **DARIEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS UPDATE (MIKE LYNCH)**

- Custodial staff aware of recycling and single stream
- Staff has been supplied with Microfiber cloths and 'green' cleaning solutions by Board of Ed
- 'Double Cans' on trucks allows staff to pick up both MSW and SSR in one trip to each class room
- Teacher participation needs more work as many do not comply
- Custodial staff gets demoralized when process is not administered properly by oversight staff
- Agreed it makes sense to concentrate on classrooms first, and hold off on cafeteria issues for now

**DHS-** \$2,000 Whole Kids Foundation Garden Grant money received, planting to begin next week

- Earth Day
  - Craig Flaherty to address DHS students 12:45 – 01:30 on benefits of recycling
  - 2 Period 'light outs blackout' to illustrate need vs habit of using lighting
- DHS 'Arts for Action' group working on 4' to 5' cardboard cutout figures explaining recycling for school refuse distribution. An 8 ½" x 11" flier is also being looked into as well as need for signs in classrooms

**MIDDLESEX MIDDLE SCHOOL-** Finley to follow up with Mr. Tim Sorenson

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS-** preliminary tour of Royle, Holmes & Ox Ridge schools made. Official tour with Mike Lynch, principal of each facility and Green Team member to be arranged shortly

- List with number of rooms and recycling bins for each school supplied by Allison Stolar
  - Bin size, labels, and availability were not consistent from room-to-room
  - Signage issue; some out of date, some inaccurate
  - Noted there were no recycling receptacles outside of school buildings
- Royle School - illegal dumping of household waste in dumpster has been an issue. Locks have been tried, but present a separate set of issues. Appropriate personnel from school, DPW, City Carting or Police to 'dumpster dive' to examine trash to identify abusing party and follow up with police.

## **- ISSUES**

- Liner inside recycling bins confusing to some students who then see it as a 'trash' receptacle.
- still some confusion on used paper towels, napkins, and mylar.

## **- KEYS TO SUCCESS**

- 1- SIGNAGE!- Clarity vs Consistency to be explored
  - One school segregates paper (blue) and plastic (green) with color coded bins and signs; Staff then combines both in SSR after-the-fact
- 2- PRINCIPAL- active involvement of principal in education of teachers is critical.

## **BUSINESS AND INSTITUTIONAL SINGLE STREAM CONVERSION**

### **DARIEN TOWN HALL**

- SUITES all have recycling bins, but individual offices and desks do not
- PUBLIC ROOMS- no recycling bins in any public rooms

**DARIEN LIBRARY-** Sally Ijams expressed pride in Darien Library's 'Green' status, yet noted there are issues with waste management. Current mix is 80% MSW / 20% SSR. Need exists for a three tier educational approach: staff education; cleaning crew education; public awareness initiative.

- 1- STAFF- Sally given paraphernalia to disseminate in meeting with staff
- 2- CLEANING CREW- Sally to notify Terry Gaffney of meeting date with crew so he can give a bilingual (Spanish/English) presentation to cleaning crew
- 3- PUBLIC AWARENESS
  - a. There will be a one hour presentation this Sunday at 2:00PM geared towards families
  - b. Earth Day Tabling Event- Terry G to coordinate with Sally Ijams on presentation

**OFFICES / BUSINESSES** – not ready to push SSR at commercial enterprises just yet as compliance in most is spotty at best; color coding (blue) paper, (green) plastic plus, (beige) MSW seems to be most effective

**ONE DAY RECYCLING PASS** – Program is operational

**LETTER TO EDITOR-** increased public awareness; considerable positive feedback; Carolyn Bayne to continue with initiative.

**BOY SCOUT TAG SALE-** Dot Kelly provided info on 'how to' and 'what to' to Scout Leaders; Dot and Terry to follow up

**FLIERS-** Craig to meet with DPW to review

- SSR flier okay as is
- office and classroom recycling may require a different flier
- Spanish version- project for language departments for translation TG to reach out
- Map- demolition debris and textile bin locations to be corrected

**DECALS-** more effective for home canister use, not necessarily for classroom or office situations

**SOCIAL MEDIA-** Carolyn Bayne to spearhead effort to set up Facebook page- to consult with Sally Ijams on set up of page

**SWAP SHOP-** several issues

- Vandalism which resulted in a police report
- Abuse of privilege to access of goods by residents created situation requiring police intervention
- How to make it safer, more convenient for parking,
- Dan Dolcetti acts as coordinator of volunteers at Swap Shop- consider putting forward names for Community Fund's 'VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION' (Jim Cameron) program

**GREEN TEAM-** umbrella organization of various public interest groups

- GO GREEN INITIATIVE in full swing

## **MARKETING PLAN, OUTREACH AND PUBLIC EDUCATION**

**MARKETING PLAN CALENDAR-** Terry Gaffney circulated first draft to committee members; members to provide supplemental information prior to next meeting

**CONTACT LIST-** Terry Gaffney circulated first draft to committee members; members to provide supplemental information prior to next meeting

No other business being brought forth, a motion made to adjourn at 01:12; seconded and approved unanimously.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** Room 206, Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 12:00 Noon.

Submitted by Terry Gaffney