

Minutes are considered "Draft" until approved by the Committee. Please contact the Planning and Zoning Office for a copy of final minutes.

Minutes
Joint Green Efforts Committee
February 7, 2017
6:30 p.m.

Present:

In attendance:

Betty DaCruz
John Hinze
Katy Perry
John Vibert

Shannon Rutherford, Assistant Town Planner

Two members of the public

Kristen Brown, Waste Zero - presenter

- A. Call to Order – 6:31pm.
- B. Public Comment
None
- C. Kristen Brown with Waste Zero, consultant to CT DEEP, provided a presentation on a CT DEEP initiative that the Town of Farmington is looking into – SMART waste management. SMART stands for Save Money And Reduce Trash. This is part of the CT DEEP initiative to reduce trash by 60% by 2024. Kristen explained the analysis she has conducted to date on Farmington's waste management practices. Currently Farmington disposes approximately 740 lbs of trash per capita annually. By implementing a SMART waste removal program, it is likely that this volume can be reduced by approximately 40%. The basis of the program involves a 'pay as you throw' concept. It will involve the use of garbage bags, labeled for use in Farmington, being purchased for a nominal amount to offset the costs of disposal. The more bags you use the more you pay, the less bags you use the less you pay. Research indicates that this financial incentive is needed to promote the change in waste disposal behaviors and increase recycling percentages.

The Committee had a number of questions for Kristen throughout the presentation resulting in a productive and informative discussion. One of the primary concerns raised had to do with enforcement and the potential increase in illegal dumping. Kristen did note that strong enforcement in the first two months is critical to the success of the program and diminishing the prevalence of undesirable practices.

Items for Shannon to follow up on:

1. Are the current disposal and recycling carts numbered? Do they have a 'chip' in them?
2. Does Farmington receive money for our recycling volume or percentage?

D. Administrative / Communications

1. The January 3, 2017 meeting minutes were approved. (Hinze / Perry)
(M/S/A)
2. Semi-annual Newsletter:
 - a. All agreed that the first newsletter was wonderful. Thank you Rose!
 - b. Suggestions: post article to Green Efforts page, the Town's main page on 'In the Spotlight', post to the Green Efforts FB page, post to school Friday Folders.
 - c. confirm with Rose the distribution list
 - d. review the 'intended audience' at the next meeting
3. Membership – Rodger Phillips has expressed interest in joining the Committee. John Tucker may also be interested in joining.
4. Shannon distributed and reviewed the Green Circle Sustainability Award draft application. Overall the feedback was positive. We discussed the pros and cons of adding other activities that the Committee leads and generally the consensus was to focus on one activity – the Annual Clean-up Day for this application. Suggestions for improving the content of the application include a discussion on things done to help involve children / teens more – crew team, West Woods, and bicycle smoothie. Shannon to send a final draft before the end of the month. Applications are due March 2017.
5. Cate and Shannon to make a presentation on Recycling to a Brownie Troop on 2/16/17 at 4:30pm. Trash Museum is closed. Shannon has found other items on the CT DEEP website. Should be all set for presentation.

E. Energy Conservation

- a. Old Business
 1. Solar – Municipal Buildings and Land – no update
 2. Community Pledge – working on redeeming the next Bright Ideas Grant. The Clean Energy Communities Program is coming to close. As part of the close out, Farmington received their reward check for the renewable energy credits. These funds will be used for the Municipal Lighting Project.
 3. Exterior Municipal Lighting Project – Out to bid in February. Bid walk through in mid-February. Bids due in March.
 4. Municipal Car Charging Stations – no update
- b. New Business
None

F. Waste Reduction

- a. Old Business
 - i. Curbside Textile Recycling – Shannon contacted approximately 10 communities in Ohio already participating in the program – all of the feedback has been positive. Simple Recycling still needs permit

with the State of CT. Shannon has researched the CCSWA and found that there is a Master Service contract with Bay State Textiles, Inc. Further review of the contracts is needed to understand the services.

- ii. 2017 Annual Clean-Up Day – Shannon has contracted with Iron Mountain for shredding services at the Farmington Clean-up day and Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day (HHHWCD). Dates have also been secured for the two HHHWCD that are held in Simsbury. Betty has been VERY successful helping get donations for the day and Heaviest Haul competition.
- iii. 2017 Compost Bin Sale – Betty provided an update on information for a 2017 sale. She has secured a quote from Orvis and will follow up with Enviro-World. While the bins from Orvis are somewhat less expensive they do not provide on-line ordering like Enviro-World, all orders would have to be received at Town Hall, cataloged and sent to Orvis. We will evaluate options and likely make a decision prior to March.

b. New Business

- i. DEEP Dive – SMART waste reduction – The Committee briefly discussed the presentation that Kristen made at the beginning of the meeting. Overall all comments were positive. The group is excited to see the program advance to the next phase and is willing to participate in any community outreach that may be needed.

G. Open Space Management / Invasive Species Reduction

a. Old Business

- i. CT Water Planting Area Update: CT Water contacted Farmington and indicated that due to Farmington's dedication and upkeep of the planting area we will be receiving another \$1,000.00 grant for additional plants. Farmington will make a matching contribution of \$1,000.00 from the Invasive Species Management capital improvement fund, and FRWA is also going to donate \$1,000.00 toward planting material. This should get more fully underway in March and April.

b. New Business

None

H. Committee Logo – no update

- I. March meeting – The March meeting will take place at the Main Library, in the 2nd floor Board Room. We will have a guest speaker, Amy Petras from Farmington River Watershed Association discussing lawn care and water conservation.

Adjourn 8:32 pm (Hinze / Perry) (M/S/A)

cc: Kathy Eagen, Town Manager
Kathy Greider, Superintendent of Schools
Chris Fagan, Board of Education
Tim Harris, Director of School Facilities
Mary Paganini, Administrative Assistant
Rose Ponte, Director of Economic Development
Russ Arnold, Director of Public Works
Erica Robertson, Assistant Town Manager