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TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD

TOWN HALL, 909 FOXON ROAD, NORTH BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT 06471
TOWN MANAGER (203) 484-6000 TOWN HALL FAX (203) 484-6025

MINUTES

SOLID HAZARDOUS WASTE RECYCLING COMMITTEE

NB Police Dept Conference Room

Thursday January 08, 2026– 6:00 p.m.

1) Call to Order

Member Petroskey called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

2) Pledge of Allegiance

3) Roll Call

Present: Member Anderson, Member Jakubowski, Member Petroskey, Member Pursley, Member Savastano, and Member Whited.

Not Present: Member Bigelow, Member DeSilver, Member Ferraro, Member Sharp; ADPW Dan Celentano.

4) Public/Guest

5) Approve minutes of December 11, 2025

Motion: To approve the minutes of December 11, 2025 with the change noted.

Moved: Member Savastano

Second: Member Anderson

Discussion: Member Savastano requested a correction on page 2 on the 3rd line down; where it says 5% it should be 50% over the years of the contract.

With all in favor, the motion is passed.

Abstain: Member Jakubowski

6) Correspondence

7) Report from Dan Celentano: Town Manager's Representative- no updates.

8) Topics for Discussion:

Schools/Research- no new updates

Plastic Wrap- 395 pounds of plastic film were collected for December. 163 pounds were collected from the PW bins.

For 2025, we collected 5,219 pounds, compared to 5,701 pounds in 2024. Not sure if the 500 pounds difference is due to the elimination of the Town Building Collection. Trash accounted for 139 pounds, which is 2.6 % of the total weight collected.

We have collected over 42,000 pounds of film since the program's inception, in 2017. Modified inside of the Pw bin to better capture loose plastic film. Inserted in 2 Trex collection bins with plastic bag liners.

Recycling/Trash Info Card Update-

Member Petrosky stated that it was in the Totoket Times issue that came out today, and it has been at the town offices for about a week already and is posted on Facebook. Member Jakubowski requested that the committee start reviewing the Recycling card in September and then be able to submit it to the Purchasing Agent in November.

Backup Committee Responsibilities and Assignments- see attachment #

OneDrive Update for Committee- no new updates.

Earth Day Early Planning- Discussion

Member Savastano discussed some preliminary things to start planning for Earth Day.

It is typically done on Opening Day of Little League.

- We would need to email the LL President to get the date of Opening Day and get permission to share the field for the event.
- Also email Park & Rec to ask for permission to share the field.
- Start a list of displays/ charts/ layouts/ give aways.
- Draft an "Invite Letter" to include the date and time to include hobbyist, Town Departments, Eco- friendly businesses/ nonprofits.
- Publicity to advertise in the Totoket times/ Banners and on social media.
- **4 weeks before the event:** send out the invites mail, email and personal visit. Work on the displays.
- **2 weeks before the event:** follow on the invitations that were sent.
- **1 week before the event:** 2 banners on each side of town and on the Town Hall green.
- **Tuesday or Wednesday before the event:** get 100 Sunflower seeds to give away.

Member Savastano sent some requests to ADWP Celentano regarding Earth Day- he spoke with Brian Augur yesterday & he is willing to loan one of those hay bale trailers to us so we can get started with setting up the "Recycle Odyssey".

His immediate thought is to ask when we can clean out the garage --because we'll need room to work. His next thought is -he has a short list of some materials to get started & was wondering if there was anything available/leftover from some other jobs that we could use.

There were more comments regarding having the Trash picker for the E-Waste Events as he is funded with our Nip funds. Also possibly having the trash picker to pick up mattresses.

9) Publicity

See attachment # 1

10) Other Committee activities, webinars, teleconferences, other topics, etc.

Requested review of the nip process.

Member Petroskey is scheduled to present on how NB does recycling to the Guilford Rotary on February 18th.

Member Jakubowski shared information from the SWAC meeting. **See attachment # 2**
February's chair of the meeting will be Member Anderson, and Member Jakubowski will do April.

11) Citizens Statements

12) Adjournment.

Motion: To adjourn at 7:42p.m.

Moved: Member Anderson

Second: Member Whited

With all in favor, the motion is passed.

Respectfully Submitted by: Kathleen Daly, Board Clerk

January 8, 2026

Attachment #1
Recycling News

Christmas Tree Pickup continues – January 12-16, 2026
On your scheduled pickup day.

The 2026 Recycling/Trash Information Card will be in your January Totoket Times. Please look for it and save it for a reference to all the trash/recycling events all year long.
If the card is missing or you misplace yours, there will be copies at both libraries and Town Hall. You can also download a copy from the town website.

Reduce – Reuse - Recycle

For the New Year it is a good time to re-evaluate your waste footprint.

Donating = Reuse

For items that still have some life in them, consider posting them on the Facebook page: [North Branford & Northford Free Items](#).

Help someone else out, unclutter your house and help the environment at the same time.

There are also a few North Branford and/or Northford Tag Sale Facebook pages.

For a larger audience check out Freecycle.org in East Haven or New Haven.

You can also look up your item in the New Haven Downsizing Donation Guide. It lists multiple organizations that want your stuff! Just search for ‘New Haven Downsizing Donation Guide’.

Try the One-A-Day Declutter Method. Every day, commit to purge ONE item from you home. Try to donate your items so someone else can use them.

Plastic Film Reminder

The town’s drop off locations are:

[The Northford Store, The Food Pantry of NB, Country Paint and Hardware, T.J.’s Launderette and](#)
[our new Recycling Station at Public Works.](#)



Can I recycle it?

Connecticut has a website to help with recycling questions: www.recyclect.com.

They also have an app.

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For more information about recycling in North Branford you can check out North Branford's Recycling Committee's website: <https://www.northbranfordct.gov/245/SolidHazardous-Waste-Recycling-Committee>

or our Facebook page: North Branford CT Hazardous Waste & Recycling Committee

Thank You for Your Participation

Attachment #2**CTDEEP Solid Waste Advisory Committee Meeting**

10/28/25

Hybrid Meeting – Hartford CT/Zoom

Sherill Baldwin - sherill.baldwin@ct.gov

Plastic Recycling Updates

Kate Bailey – Chief Policy Officer - Association of Plastic Recyclers (APR)

Economic Problems

- Low price/excess of new virgin plastic
- Brands are backing off sustainability measures and using less recyclables.
- Influx of imported recycled plastic from Asia is competing with our recycled plastics.
- If recycled plastics are more expensive than virgin plastic, more goes to landfills.

Study from Berkley

- Best solution - require more recycled content in products and packaging.

Benefits

- Reduces GHG's emissions.
- Climate Goals
- Saves Energy

Study from Oregon

- Every time a product uses recycled content (plastic in plastic) or (paper in paper) it always generates an environmental benefit.

Circular Recycling

- PET bottles are now capable of being recycled into new bottles for water and soda. A plastic bottle can be recycled about 7 or 8 times. There is a step in the process toward the end called solid state processing (SSP), that restores some of the quality of that recycled PET back to almost its original form. There are other opportunities for looking at various kinds of products to recycle more than once. It really depends on what the market needs are. Currently market for carpet is not doing so well so instead of recycling bottles

into carpet, bottles are being recycled back into bottles. The market drives what plastics are recycled back into.

- Bipartisan, Federal legislation being introduced is the Circle Act – 30% tax credit for investments in recycling infrastructure. New carts on street, new equipment at MERFS, end market investments. Local governments can receive reimbursements too.

Durable Items

- Difficult to recycle durable items like benches and pipes since they have a longer lifespan – they could be recycled but we just do not have the infrastructure to collect and recycle. The take-away – we need stronger collection services for durable goods.
- To use recycled plastics for food takes more energy and water since food grade plastic materials must be high quality vs. recycling plastics for non-food goods.

Collection Problem

- 3 out of 10 plastic bottles are collected. We have the technology and ability to recycle but greater need is the collection process.

Black Plastic

- Not accepted in CT. Although some facilities can handle, not all can, so abide by the facilities with least technology to make it simpler for recycling in CT.
- Companies trying to find new way to create black plastic instead of using carbon black pigment.

Vape Waste

Jennifer Heaton-Jones Executive Director of HRRA

- There is no end-of-life management for vapes.
- Complex – no one wants to take them.
- Come in all different shapes to attract young users (sippy cup vapes, hoodies with vapes, video games on vape device)
- Contain liquid batteries and liquid chemicals (nicotine or cannabis).
- Not considered e-waste as they have too many parts
- There is no suggested disposal method in CT.
- Extremely expensive to collect and dispose of.
- Can not recycle and should not be thrown in the garbage. There is no best solution for disposal.
- Recommend towns speaking with HHW (Household Hazardous Waste) vendor.
- Discussed concern with public health messages that state, “Vapes are Trash.” For your health yes but should not be disposed of in the trash.

Jesse Schofield (CT Tire Stewardship Program)

- Approved 9/22/25

- Launch 3/21/2026
- 2.8 – 3.3 million tires enter CT every year, replacing existing tires
- Improper disposal is common – illegal dumping, fire risks, mosquitoes in pooled tire water, costly clean-ups.
- Same tires can be used in profitable markets – retreaded, become roads, tire-derived aggregate, mats, garbage cans, flooring tiles, automotive parts, and more.
- CT passed the first Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Law for tires in 2023.
- Manufacturers are required to take responsibility for products at end-of-life.
- Paid by manufacturers (producers) not customers.
- CT will establish free, statewide drop-off network in partnership with covered entities and coordinate tire pickups.
 - Supply signage and education materials and communication tools.
 - Tires in toys, bicycles, mobility devices, and commercial aircrafts not included.
 - Included – passenger car tires, commercial trucks, motorcycles, heavy-duty trucks, buses, golf carts, ATV, construction vehicles, mining, trailers, non-commercial aircraft tires.
 - Tires can be collected at transfer stations, recycling centers, retailers, auto shops, and fleet facilities.
 - CTS will manage all collection and transportation costs and provide suitable storage containers when necessary.
 - Benefits – free and convenient disposal, service for residents, reduces municipal costs for tire collection, hauling, and disposal, improve recycling outcomes, reduce public health and environmental risks from improperly handled tires.
 - When should we no longer collect ten dollars for tires? Firm date is March 21st 2026.
 - How tires are collected will need to be agreed upon with town and contract signed.
 - Send contact from your municipality to distribute information as it becomes available.
 - Contact is: jesse@recycletiresct.com
 - Website: <https://recycletiresct.com>

Ryan Carboni – Environmental Analyst, CEQ (Council Environmental Quality)

- Public ACT 21 – 58, Section 10
- 5 cent surcharges on alcohol bottles (50 ml or less)
- Given back to municipality.
- Wholesale collect and give back to municipality of sale every April and October
- Cover reduction of solid waste (hiring a recycling coordinator, recycling equipment) or impact of litter (personnel costs to remove, street sweepers, vacuums, brooms)
- Annual review of the program
- 159 municipalities are participating
- Survey data from July 1 2024 – June 30th 2025
- 91 responses.
- 2,084,080.00 of NIPS funds were spent for the reporting period. Average for 66 municipalities was \$3,177.00. Most common use was for equipment and support for personnel. Storm drain filters were the least.
- Some municipalities carry funds over to next year. Some towns do not receive any funds as they do not sell any nips. Amount of money varies from each town. Can carry funds over to purchase larger items (like a street sweeper).
- Those surveyed to date felt program was very effective or rated it as effective.
- NIPS not accepted at recycling centers, so should be thrown in trash
- For more details: CEQ@ct.gov

- Phone number: 860-424-4000

Chris Leson (CT DEEP)

- 2024 – bottle bill - 10 cents redemption
- 2025 – increase in redemption of bottles – 2025 approximately 85% redeemed from 50 – 70% in 2024. Big jump in redemption rate at 10 cents.
- There is cross-border redemption happening (truck loads coming from New York)
- For the last 12 months **98, 611, 969 million containers** sold and total fees paid out was **4,930,598 million**
- We lead the nation as most mini containers sold. “The Mini State”
- If search “Bottle Bill Stakeholder Process” can see a summary of payments to towns in CT

Sherrill Baldwin (CT DEEP) School Recycling Environmental Analyst III

- Over 1839 emails sent to Principals and Assistant Principals
- Recycling is Mandatory in CT schools
- New law PA 24-45 Organic recycling about recycling food scraps – only about 20 schools meet this new law and will be required to recycle organics. Other schools in state could do this voluntarily. Total number of schools in CT is 1093.
- Law states if school produces 26 tons or more of organic waste and are within 20 miles of a facility that processes that material, they must recycle organic waste
- E-mail to go out to schools this year to complete a survey to see what they are doing
- DEEP staff will conduct site visits to a few schools this year
- Updated website with toolkit for schools
- Two schools attached or are on same property may trigger law.

Other Notes

- CT Composting Conference at Wesleyan University on March 19, 2026
- 2026 SWAC Schedule – Next meeting January 27, 2026