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# TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD

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## SOLID HAZARDOUS WASTE RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Town Council Chambers

Thursday June 8, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.

### 1) Call to Order

Chairperson Bigelow called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**Present:** Chairperson Mary Bigelow, Member Tom Scelfo, Member Bill Savastano, Member Donna Pursley, Member Hank Petroskey, Member Deborah Anderson, Karen Jubakowski- Guest

**Not Present:** Member Susan DeSilver and Member Deb Ferraro, and Assistant Director of Public Works Celentano

### 2) Pledge of Allegiance

### 3) Public/Guest

### 4) Approve minutes of May 11, 2023

**Motion:** Member Tom Scelfo motioned to approve the minutes of May 11, 2023; seconded by Member Deborah Anderson.

**Discussion:** None

**With all in favor, motion is passed.**

### 5) Correspondence

### 6) Report from Dan Celentano Town Manager's Representative

It was reported that Public Works Assistant Director Dan sent out an email that the Public Works driveway was being re-aligned in accordance with the specifications from the DOT while the new Police Department is being built. They are also building a new garage on the Public Works site as well.

### 7) Topics for Discussion:

**Schools/Research-** No new updates

#### Plastic Wrap

Member Hank Petroskey shared that 568 lbs of plastic film were collected during the month of May. It is normally between 300-400 lbs in a given month. Member Savastano said one of the places is Aquatic Pools and there is a new person and they give 8-10 lbs a week. Country Paint & Hardware gave 140 lbs this month. This month there was a noticed decrease in contaminated plastic film, under 20 lbs contaminated. Member Anderson asked if we reported the contaminated portion that it would be brought to someone's attention. If it is reported that could be helpful. Member Petroskey continued sharing that for

the Public Works garage, Dan had sent an email that there is an automatic door now so no one will get locked out again.

### **Publicity**

Member Donna Pursley said the deadline is Friday (June 9th) for next Friday's upcoming Totoket Times issue. July 8 will be the date for E-Waste drop-off to include electronics used oil, etc. Haz waste centralis now open for the season. There is a link to download the form- they will not accept any asbestos, medicines, smoke detectors. As an unacceptable curbside waste reminder-formally festive balloons and garbage.

### **Status of list for projects to spend the NIP money**

Member Tom Scelfo shared his opinion that he liked option #4 as it seems to be mobile and easy to work with. 2 would work for the \$400 max.

**Motion:** Hank motioned to request permission for the A-Plus Standard Message Board Sign 27" x 48" | Large Rolling Double-Sided A-Frame Sidewalk Sign with Letters & Numbers | Outdoor Folding Sandwich Board from Amazon; seconded by Tom Scelfo

**Discussion:**None

**With all in favor, motion is passed.**

### **Leaf Drop off**

Member Deborah Anderson requested to drop the agenda item "Leaf Drop Off" from the agenda until September minutes/ agenda. Also on the town website it shows for our committee the meeting begins at 6:30p.m when our meeting does begin at 6 p.m.

### **E-Waste Collection**

E- Waste Collection will be on July 8th at Public Works. Chairperson Bigelow is requesting volunteers for the event. Member Pursley, Member Anderson and Member Bill Savastano volunteered. Member Hank Petroskey stated he will reach out to Dan re: the traffic pattern, etc.

### **8) Other Committee activities, webinars, teleconferences, other topics, etc**

#### **Product stewardship thing for the tires is too complex.**

Member Tom Scelfo shared information on a meeting he attended for the Product Stewardship Institute. On Monday, June 5, Connecticut became the first state to pass an EPR for tires bill in both chambers. The bill, [HB 6486](#), is expected to be signed into law by Governor Ned Lamont.

The bill requires tire manufacturers to finance, operate, and report on the post-consumer management of their products. The bill will decrease illegal dumping, better protect consumers, and boost tire recycling in the state.

HB 6486, sponsored by Representative Joseph Gresko since 2018 and Senator Rick Lopes, has been championed by PSI board members Tom Metzner of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) and Jen Heaton-Jones of the Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority (HRRRA) and chair of the CT Product Stewardship Council. In 2015, PSI staff Scott Cassel and Suna Bayrakal facilitated a national multi-stakeholder tire stewardship dialogue for the CT DEEP, including a tire stewardship briefing document and a tire EPR policy model, which laid the foundation for HB 6486.

Once signed, the law is expected to increase the retreading and recycling of a significant number of the roughly 3.1 million scrap tires generated annually in the state. About 75 percent of these had been burned as tire-derived fuel (TDF) until the TDF incineration plant in Sterling, Conn. (Exeter Energy) closed in June 2014. Now there are fewer outlets for retread, recycling, or beneficial use of scrap tires in Connecticut, with a resulting increase in illegally dumped tires.

Currently, Connecticut retailers and repair shops typically charge customers a tire recycling fee after replacing their tire, which is supposed to cover the cost of proper transport, recycling, or disposal. However, without the right incentives, a transparent reporting system, or funding for local and state government enforcement, tires are dumped illegally to avoid end of life management fees. As a result,

Connecticut consumers are often double charged—once for recycling that never happens and again through taxes used to collect dumped tires from waterways, forests, and roadsides. In 2014, more than 16,000 illegally dumped tires were picked up by the Connecticut Department of Transportation. Tires that lie in stockpiles or illegal dumps cause environmental threats and public health hazards like mosquito-borne illness and fire risk.

Under the new EPR law, the same fee will be moved to the point-of-sale, so no customer, repair shop, transporter, or retailer has an incentive to illegally dump tires. Additionally, under HB 6486 transporters are paid only upon delivery of the tires to a processor or end market, removing any incentive for them to illegally dump tires. The entire system must be managed by tire manufacturers, including transparent and auditable reporting to the state—a system of accountability that will prevent illegal dumping and protect consumers.

Tire EPR programs have been operating successfully in Canada since the 1990s. **With an EPR law, the province of Ontario, Canada achieved a 100 percent diversion rate – all scrap tires collected are now recycled and illegal dumping has been virtually eliminated.**

The tire law will be the sixth EPR law in Connecticut and marks the third time that the state has led the nation with a first product EPR bill—the other two being mattresses (2013) and gas cylinders (2022). A 2017 PSI study found that the four EPR programs operating in Connecticut at the time (paint, mattresses, electronics, and mercury thermostats) had diverted more than 26 million pounds of material from disposal, yielding cumulative cost savings of more than \$2.6 million per year to Connecticut municipalities, creating more than 100 jobs, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by more than 13 million kilograms of carbon equivalent.

We anticipate similar results for Connecticut’s tires EPR law.

The next SWAK meeting is on June 27th

Members of the committee will be volunteering with Haz Waste Centra in July. .

Our guest Karen if she is interested in joining our committee her next steps would be to check in with the political party she is affiliated with for the town to be recommended as an appointment for the committee.

**9) Citizens Statements:** None

#### **10) Adjournment**

**Motion:** Member Tom Scelfo motioned to adjourn; seconded by Member Deborah Anderon

**Discussion:**

**With all in favor, motion is passed.**

**Adjourned at 7:01p.m.**