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RONALD PELLICCIA, JR.

# TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD

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## SOLID HAZARDOUS WASTE RECYCLING COMMITTEE

### Town Council Chambers

Thursday October 12, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.

#### 1) Call to Order

Chairperson Bigelow called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

**Present:** Chairperson Bigelow, Member Tom Scelfo, Member Bill Savastano, Member Donna Pursley, Member Deborah Anderson, Assistant Director of Public Works Celentano, and Member Susan DeSilver

**Not Present:** Member Debbie Ferraro, Member Karin Jakobowski, and Member Hank Petroskey

#### 2) Pledge of Allegiance

#### 3) Public/Guest

#### 4) Approve minutes of July 13, 2023 and September 14, 2023

**Motion:** Member Tom Scelfo motioned to approve the minutes from July 13, 2023; seconded by Member Deborah Anderson.

**Discussion:** None

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

**Abstain:** Member Donna Pursley and Member Susan DeSilver

**Motion:** Member Tom Scelfo motioned to approve the minutes from September 14, 2023; seconded by Member Bill Savastano.

**Discussion:**

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

**Abstain:** Member Donna Pursley and Member Susan DeSilver

#### 5) Correspondence

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

Assistant Public Works Director Celentano shared that the A-Frame signs for \$400 were approved by the Town Council. When he went to order them with shipping it was \$287 per sign so only one was purchased at this time.

Member Bill Savastano shared that he took a look at it and there is a place to put water so it can be weighed down.

New Member Karin Jakobowski was appointed by the Town Council. We need to get her contact information and have her begin to attend meetings.

Right before the meeting, Assistant Public Works Director Celentano sent over the inventory from John's Refuse- 151 trash cans and 67 recycle bins. Member Bill Savastano said in the past there was a more detailed report, which was not what they provided. The Town Council approved \$16,000 and then another \$8,000.

The Part time Grounds picker is working and doing well thus far, he helps cover the 31 town properties. Member Bill Savastano asked if the Trash picker is keeping detailed track of how much he is picking up. Assistant Public Works Director Celentano said he fills out the sheet but can keep a little more detailed track and he is only on until November 15th. This is meant as a pilot to see how many hours are needed for next year. Member Donna Pursley suggested that maybe how many bags are picked up at each location to make sure we are being accountable.

The tire dumpster, trash and metal dumpster are all finally covered. This has been talked about for a long time and it is finally covered at Public Works.

Member Bill Savastano asked for the extra trash that the dumpster goes to John's.

Member Donna Pursley stated that at the September meeting we need to get a report from John's on where they took the trash/ recyclables. they can go wherever they want but we would like to know.

Chairperson Mary Bigelow asked Assistant Public Works Director Celentano if he can get Pam Roach the name of the place John's takes the recycling.

Member Deborah Anderson asked that we also find out from John's how many mattresses were collected so we know how much we are being charged.

There was some discussion of hiring someone to pick up mattresses with the Nip money as DPW Merola does not want his staff picking up mattresses as they are already very busy.

## **7) Topics for Discussion:**

### **Schools/Research**

#### **School Liaison:**

Member Bill Savastano shared Member Hank Petroskey's report. Jackie Thurston, a teacher at NBHS, would like to begin a plastic film collection process at NBHS. She'd like to earn a bench for the new student garden. I will hold off on this a bit as with now only getting one bench a year and being committed to three more for the fire and police, it may be a way off. Also, with Aquatic Pool stepping up much more over the last year, we should put their name on the list for a bench.

### **Boy Scout project**

Member Hank Petroskey sent over a report stating he approved the Eagle Scout project. Here is the latest and best video. We just need to figure out how to distribute.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vT3BX8V62fY-h5MK2RT60Mpf8a-y949L/view>

Member Bill Savastano shared that this is good and something that could be put on our website as a reminder and guide.

### **Plastic Wrap**

Member Hank Petroskey's report states 372 pounds of film collected for September. Thanks to Bill, Sue, and Donna for covering for me. I am sure if anyone else would like to assist, they would welcome it.

Starting in January 2024, Trex will be moving to a 12 month and 1,000 pounds of plastic film to earn a bench, not 6 months and 500 pounds, as it has been since we started in the program in 2017? So, we will only get one bench a year.

They are also looking at pushing the regional recycling model for plastic film where a number of municipalities purchase a baler (\$10k) and Trex picks up from there rather than us bringing our stuff to a retailer. There are currently no programs like that in our area.

It may be worth reaching out to one of our regional government cooperatives (DEEP, COGS, etc.) to see if they have any interest in pursuing and helping to fund and manage the baler. My guess is North Branford would not be, as we do not have the facilities or staffing for doing so. It is certainly more convenient for us to bring our plastic film to a Town location, plus Big Y allowed us to start the program, and they have been very supportive of us, however, if expanding to other towns would get more plastic film recycled, we would certainly be in favor of supporting something like that.

Perhaps our CT DEEP has some stats on the actual/estimated amount of how much plastic film gets recycled versus trashed. That would definitely aid in a business case.

### **Publicity**

Member Donna Pursley shared some of the items being sent in for the Totoket Times to include information: Fall Leaf collection is now open on Saturdays; Scrap Metals Collection to occur the week of October 23rd. Bulky Waste the week of November 6th, during your regularly scheduled pick up date.

Continuing to advertise the Facebook group North Branford and Northford Free Items for furniture that is no longer needed.

Electronics drop off will occur on Saturday, November 4th to include a collection of batteries, mattresses, propane tanks, used oil and tires. Haz Waste Central will close for the season on Oct 28th.

Plastic film drop off locations. There can also be something added about pumpkins as they are biodegradable, and do not belong in the trash cans.

### **Status of list for projects to use NIP money.**

Member Bill Savastano asked if the Town Manager would consider asking the Town Council to set aside \$100,000 for a Transfer Station (this would include the engineer and set up).

If we were allowed to use those funds along with the annual Nip funds, would we be able to get a coordinator to run that station?

Member Bill Savastano mentioned that checks for the NIP money tend to go out in May and again in October. He had mentioned to Finance Director Esposito to be on the lookout for the next payment for the year.

Member Bill Savastano spoke with Finance Director Esposito and received a spreadsheet to log his mileage for reimbursement. When it was passed by the Town Council, it was to be retroactive to July 1, 2023.

Sheryl Baldwin was on Branford (BCTV) talking about recycling in September, maybe we could arrange for her to do something similar on Totoket TV, it had a lot of visual information and graphics on her power point.

### **Leaf Drop off**

Member Deborah Anderson has 4 slots open for Leaf Drop off weekends. Thanks to Member Bill Savastano for taking the afternoon shift this weekend and Tom Peterson is taking the morning shift. The 21st that Saturday is covered, the 28th, the afternoon shift is open; November 4th and November 11th have afternoon shifts open and November 18th both shifts are open. Member Donna Pursley said she would take one of the open shifts.

### **North Branford Recycles Day (11/4/23):**

#### **> Confirmation with Take 2**

Member Bill Savastano will contact Take 2 and will email Dan with information.

#### **> Mattress and box spring collection**

#### **> Electronic Waste**

E-Waste collection will take place on Saturday November 4th. Members Deborah Anderson, Bill Savastano, and Donna Pursley to volunteer for the E-waste collection. Member Deborah Anderson asked Assistant Public Works Director Celentano if he could speak with Gerry to make sure the women's bathroom will be open during the e-waste collection.

#### **> Tire pricing vs. size**

Assistant Public Works Director Celentano said they are in line with what other towns are charging. We will keep it all the same.

#### **> Propane tank vendor and pricing vs. size**

### **Discussion of scrap metals collection (week of October 23 and bulky waste pick-up (week of November 6)**

Member Bill Savastano shared with the new date set for Bulky Waste that we ask Assistant Public Works Director Celentano to help us bring in those mattresses that are out for Bulky Waste after E-Waste Collection Day. His thought is to have residents start putting their Bulky Waste items out as early as 11/2-11/6 so that the Public Works guys can make note of the streets in town that have mattresses and then on Monday 11/6 some of the guys could go out and grab the mattresses,

Public Works has been good with the E-waste events by giving us more manpower. If needed we can always have a line item in the budget to reimburse Public Works.

Member Bill Savastano shared he was able to get in contact with someone at Bake & Joy about reusing the muffin tins.

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

#### **> Note: SWAC meeting currently scheduled for 10/24/23.**

Member Bill Savastano shared at the last Town Council meeting, the committee is still short a few regular members and there is a need for some alternates.

Country Recycling company in Wallingford. this doesn't really pertain to use right now. But they take stuff from other towns, the town of orange they bring compost to the transfer station and the company comes and picks it up. it can be anything in the compost- bones, oyster/ clam shells.

There was an article in the New Haven Register that restaurants are recycling the oyster/ clam shells.

Member Bill Savastano shared that he got in contact with Bake & Joy, and they are part of the sustainability team and promised a call back 2 weeks ago. He spoke with the Manager and Assistant Manager at Big Y and the idea is if they will accept them, we can package them up in a cardboard box and Big Y will haul them off.

Member Tom Scelfo shared that the next SWAC meeting is scheduled for October 24th.

## **9) Citizens Statements**

### **10) Adjournment**

**Motion:** Member Deboarh Anderson motioned to adjourn at 7:39pm.; seconded by Member Tom Scelfo.

**Discussion:** None

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