

MAYOR
ROSE MARIE ANGELONI

DEPUTY MAYOR
JEFFREY A. MACMILLEN

TOWN MANAGER
MICHAEL P. DOWNES



COUNCIL MEMBERS
BRUCE ABELSON
MARIE E. DIAMOND
WALTER GOAD
CRAIG C. MILLER
NICHOLAS PALLADINO
RONALD PELLICIA, JR.
THOMAS P. ZAMPANO

TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD

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

SOLID HAZARDOUS WASTE RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Town Council Chambers

Thursday November 09, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.

1) Call to Order

Chairperson Bigelow called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

Present: Chairperson Bigelow, Member Deborah Anderson, Member Karin Jakubowski, Member Hank Petroskey, Member Donna Pursley, Member Tom Scelfo, Member Bill Savastano, Member Susan DeSilver, and Assistant Director of Public Works Dan Celentano.

Not Present: Member Deb Ferraro.

2) Pledge of Allegiance

3) Public/Guest

4) Approve minutes of October 12, 2023

Motion: Member Tom Scelfo motioned to approve the minutes from October 12, 2023; seconded by Member Deborah Anderson.

Discussion: None

With all in favor, the motion is passed.

Abstain: Member Hank Petroskey and Member Karin Jakubowski.

5) Correspondence

Clerk Kathleen Daly will not be in attendance for the December meeting. Member Hank Petroskey said he would take the minutes for the meeting in her absence.

Chairperson Bigelow stated that the 2024 Meeting Schedule for Committee dates will need to be scheduled. Member Tom Scelfo will work with Dan Celentano to schedule it.

6) Report from Dan Celentano Town Manager's Representative

Assistant Director of Public Works Celentano reported that the Public Works dumpster is included in the trash contract, there is no additional cost. The E- Waste sign was taken up for the recycling event, but we were able to use the newly purchased sign for the event and it seemed to

work well. Assistant Director of Public Works Celentano stated he received an email from John's Refuse in relation to the 2024 Recycling card, to change the leaf pick up to Dec 2-13 as the pre-set dates fall during Thanksgiving week. He also shared in regard to the schedule for the trash picker, he does not come in on rainy days. Member Bill Savastano said he could work with the plastic film for 2024.

7) Topics for Discussion:

Schools/Research and Boy Scout project

Members Karin Jakubowski and Member Hank Petroskey will work together on the school liaison portion. Member Hank Petroskey shared he had received an email from a teacher at the high school about starting a plastic film recycling program in hopes of getting a bench for their new garden. Member Hank Petroskey did inform the teacher that with the new regulations it may be 3-4 years before they would earn a bench for their garden.

Boy scout project- Member Hank Petroskey approved the eagle scout project. tom suggested about slowing down the transition between slides.

Member Donna Pursley said someone from one of the schools mentioned in a Facebook thread that they are interested in starting recycling in the schools. She will forward that name to Member Hank Petroskey.

Plastic Wrap

Member Hank Petroskey thanked members Donna Pursley, Bill Savastano and Susan DeSilver for helping with the plastic film and sorting during his absence. 379 lbs. of film was collected for the month of October. That's down a little from previous months. Member Hank Petroskey's hope is to be able to pick up starting next week again. The latest bench that was earned is going to Nbfd Company 1 and Finance Director/ Town Treasurer Esposito said there will be some dates upcoming to deliver it and take a photo. Assistant Public Works Director Celentano stated that he had two members of Nbfd Company 1 in his crew that could assist in the delivery of the bench once a date is secured.

Publicity

Member Donna Pursely shared her updates that will be sent into the Totoket Times. Saturday 11/18 is the last day for leaf drop off. Curbside bagged leaf pickup to occur from 11/27-12/8 during your normal trash day. Thanksgiving is the next trash holiday.

Another section will include "Did you just find something that should've gone out for bulky waste?" There are recommendations for the Buy Nothing/ Free items FB pages, there is also a link to a downsizing donation guide. Also, to note that some big box stores are willing to take used electronics. The Recycle CT app. There will also be information on What is considered plastic films.

Member Deborah Anderson shared that there was a large number of people who attended the e-waste event with used motor oil. The request to Member Donna Pursley is to make a note that people who have used motor oil can drop it off during normal hours at the Department of Public Works. There were 21 cars just to drop off used motor oil and not e- waste. It can also be entered to note that the oil is being used to heat the Department of Public Works Garage.

Member Bill Savastano said they received the most amount of oil during this E-waste event.

Assistant Public Works Director Celentano shared that they use a company called Safety clean, and when there is a 55 drum of oil they pick up and dispose of it, but it's expensive to remove, \$1500 to dispose of it.

List for projects to use NIP money.

Member Tom Scelfo shared that thus far the town has gotten \$30,900 for nips. About \$7,000 has been made within the last 6 months.

Member Donna Pursley asked if the committee can vote to allocate NIP money for another A Frame sign with the red letters. Assistant Public Works Director Celentano stated that it was \$296 for one sign.

Motion: Member Pursley motioned to approve spending NIP money not to exceed \$500 for an A frame sign and additional letters; seconded by Member Tom Scelfo.

Discussion: None

With all in favor, the motion is passed.

Leaf Drop off.

Member Deborah Anderson shared this Saturday 12-3pm is open for a volunteer, all other shifts have been covered. So far 127 cars have come through. Member Karin Jakubowski volunteered to work the 12-3 shift this Saturday.

There was a tip to watch out for ATV's and Dirt Bikes during leaf drop off times. The NBPD will be notified to keep an eye out.

Member Bill Savastano shared via email to Member Deborah Anderson that there was a possible commercial vehicle dropping off--the thought was to notify other monitors of this possible violator.

Results of North Branford Recycles Day (11/4/23)

Member Bill Savastano had sent out a report about the E-Waste collection event on 11/4/23. He shared it was a busy day over 200 cars that showed up for electronics; but some just showed up for oil. There were (21) 25 1 lb. tanks, and 33 20lb tanks collected. 24 cars with mattresses (32 collected in total).

Member Bill Savastano shared that when he went back on Monday and spoke with the person from Take 2, he stated that he counted 285 cars. Historically Take 2 's numbers and our numbers have not matched up.

Member Deborah Anderson returned the \$40 was returned to Purchasing Agent Fumiatti on Monday 11/6/23, along with the additional \$233 that covers the tires and propane tanks. (Tally sheet from E-Waste event attached below.)

Member Deborah Anderson mentioned that she had a safety concern having 2 drop off spots.

Member Bill Savastano had many ideas on how to best streamline next year's event. A conclusion was reached that having only 1 employee from Take 2 to deal with the 225+ vehicles, was a major factor for the long line of traffic.

Chairperson Bigelow will confirm Haz Waste Central closure dates during their meeting next week.

The color of the card was collectively decided to be neon orange.

9) Committee activities, webinars, teleconferences, other topics, etc.

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

Member Tom Scelfo shared that approximately 99 people participated on the ZOOM call.

Two New (EPA) Food Waste Reports - Claudia Fabiano, EPA ORCR

- 24% of landfill material is food waste
- Digestion recovers 28% of the energy stored in food waste
- Upcycling is turning food waste into human food (e.g., taking potato skins and turning them into potato chips)
- The old food waste hierarchy was developed in the 1990's and has now been replaced by EPA's new Wasted Food Scale



EPA has generated Version 3.0 of their Excess Food Opportunity Map at https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-08/EFOM_V3_Technical_Methodology_08.03.2023.pdf to help balance:

950,000 excess-food generating establishments in the US (correctional facilities, educational institutions, farmers markets, food banks, healthcare facilities, etc.), with

Thousands of recipients of excess food (1,000 food banks, 1,600 anaerobic digestion facilities, 3,800 composting facilities)

EPA Funding Opportunities & New EPA Tools - Christine Beling, EPA Region 1

- \$350 million to support recycling and materials management was funded by the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, of which EPA Region I (New England) received \$7.4 million
- City of Stamford was awarded \$2 million for a composting project that includes four food waste collection locations; curbside collection program for residential and commercial food

waste; recycling education; and a pilot program for a food waste collection and composting program at a public high school

- On 9/20/23, EPA launched a \$4.3 billion competition for states, local governments, tribes, and territories to fund policies and programs to cut climate pollution to build on the \$250 million awarded in 2023

Fees on Miniature Spirits Bottles - Chris Nelson, DEEP

- CT purchases more miniature spirit bottles per capita than any other state
- Legislation is being considered that would allow towns to ban the sale of miniature bottles in their town
- Maine is collecting and recycling these miniature bottles
- Number of containers sold and revenue paid to towns where the miniatures were sold, and the payments to each town are posted on CTDEEP’s website at

<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Reduce-Reuse-Recycle/Bottles/Bottle-Bill-Stakeholder-Process>

Period	Container Count	Total Fees Paid
Oct 21 - Mar 22	37,599,234	\$1,879,961.70
Apr 22 - Sept 22	46,569,131	\$2,328,456.55
Oct 22 - Mar 23	48,264,561	\$2,413,228.05
Apr 23 - Sept 23	47,297,793	\$2,364,889.65
TOTALS FOR PAST 12 MONTHS	95,562,354	\$4,778,118

North Branford distributions have totaled \$30,925.82:

- 3/31/22 – \$6,779.20
- 9/30/22 – \$7,989.37
- 3/31/23 – \$8,610.35
- 9/30/23 – \$7,546.90

- Public Act 21-58 specifies that “All payments received by any municipality... shall be expended by such municipality on environmental measures intended to reduce the generation of solid waste in such municipality or reduce the impact of litter caused by such solid waste, including, but not limited to, the hiring of a recycling coordinator, the installation of storm drain filters designed to block solid waste and beverage container debris or the purchase of mechanical street sweeper, vacuum or broom that removes litter, including, but not limited to, such beverage containers and other debris from streets, sidewalks and abutting lawn and turf areas.”

MINI COLLECTION IN THOMPSON, CT - OCTOBER 2020 (48,244 CONTAINERS)



To put the number of miniatures sold in perspective, during a typical six-month period, 1,000 times more miniatures are sold than are displayed in the above photograph from a collection event in Thompson, CT in October 2020

CEQ Survey on Municipal Usage of Mini Fees - CEQ

- As required by Public Act 23-76, survey forms were sent to the Chief Elected Official in 160 municipalities by the CT Council on Environmental Quality to collect information regarding how the funds are being used and request program feedback
- Survey forms were to have been completed by October 30, 2023
- Survey results will be summarized in aggregate and appear in the 2023 edition of the CT Council on Environmental Quality's annual report

SMM Pilot Programs Update – Chris Nelson & Joe DeNicola, DEEP

- CT generates 2.3 million tons per year of municipal solid waste (MSW)
- 41% of material CT residents throw away is organic material that can be composted, converted to energy, or processed into animal feed
- 22% of residential trash is food scraps
- CT exports 860,000 tons of MSW per year out-of-state
- 45 towns applied for the grant; 15 were selected, combining food scrap collection with Unit- Based Pricing (Pay-As-You-Throw)
- First pilot programs began a year ago; some included co-collection of food waste with other waste; some included food waste drops off; and some included separate collection of food waste
- Goal was for participating households to generate no more than two 15-gallon bags per week of MSW
- Food scrap collection is allowed at transfer stations, but composting is prohibited from taking place at transfer stations – need a separate location
- CTDEEP did not expect any town to generate cost savings during the pilot program
- General observations:

Drop-off programs result in high levels of diversion, low contamination and are cost effective; but are challenging to implement, especially for larger towns.

Co-collection is cost effective in results in increased diversion for food scraps; but has higher contamination rates.

Separate collection is effective but too expensive for most towns.

At current market and voluntary pilot level diversion, cost savings would not offset additional sorting expenses for food scrap collection.

Middletown's Transition from Pilot to Permanent – Kim O'Rourke, Middletown

- Pay-As-You-Throw Pilot program began in November 2022 in a section of town
- Estimate that 60% of people participated following lots of education, cart tagging, etc.
- Middletown is planning to change from a voluntary to a mandatory program
- Costs for disposal are NOT included in Middletown taxes – residents are separately billed for disposal
- Costs for disposal (tip fees) are included in the cost for buying bags for disposal (a 15-gallon bag costs \$1); bags will only be available at City Hall, not in stores

DEA Drug Take Back Day – Chris Nelson, DEEP

- Took place on October 28, 2023
- Website <https://www.dea.gov/takebackday> but no drop off locations were identified within 100 miles of North Branford.

Next Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2024

10) Citizens Statements

Member Bill Savastano shared information on a situation at the Town Hall dumpsters. He walked over to the dumpster and was interested in big new gates- found the dumpster is full but 15 black bags on the ground- why wasn't it picked up? Are other people dumping there? The next day they were still sticking through the bags. the shredding event was a few weekends before, but it could've been the banker boxes of shredding that didn't get picked up. It got reported to Rory Burke , then to Town Manager Downes to have it emptied.

11) Adjournment.

Motion: Member Hank Petroskey motioned to adjourn at 8:31pm.; seconded by Member Susan DeSilver.

Discussion: None

With all in favor, the motion is passed.