



Deep River SustainableCT Committee

Joint meeting including Board of Selectmen and
ad hoc Deep River Waste Commission

Minutes

Where: Deep River Town Hall

When: Thursday December 14, 2023, 7 PM

1. Call to Order

Carol called to order 7:02 PM; Lenore move to call the meeting to order, Joyce seconds, unanimously approved

Welcome Jim Lockhart to Sustainable committee, pending formal appointment.

2. Agenda items for consideration by the joint attending committees

- Thin plastic collection long term planning
 - Thin plastics collection has been successful launch with volunteer collection efforts; how to carry forward?
 - Sara distributed informational materials from Trex, the company that accepts thin plastics for recycling into their product, Trex building materials
 - Locally – collected in white boxes situated at Town Hall, Adams, Transfer Station, Library
 - Picked up by Sustainable volunteers and hauled to a regional Supermarket, who operate as an aggregation hub
 - Operation has grown to 300 lbs/month. Even the supermarkets get overwhelmed with delivery from the towns
 - New Trex program: Grass Roots Communities
 - Bale locally – approximately 1000 lbs/Bale

- NextTrex (Trex) will send truck to retrieve the bundled - \$140 per bale paid to Town
 - Essex is already collecting – at a lower volume;
 - Each truckload is 40 bales, and they only pick up a half-truck at a time, so we would need to store 20+ bales
 - Trex will help finance a new baler, and the loan can be paid off by the tipping fee
 - Or, you buy a (used) baler, and they will pick up (for same unit price?)
 - River COG discussion: grant monies are probably available. Does COG have a plan? Project is in process of being launched (Discussion was held with Marcus Gonzales)
 - Lenore: DEEP has announced receipt of \$600k grant for project to plan for next generation waste disposal pilots (for example digesters, bailing aggregations...)
- Grant strategies – a goodly number exist that would apply to this situation
- Most grant agencies require substantial local involvement, whether town monies, fund raisers, or labor-in-kind
- Is the Deep River Transfer station a viable site for collection? Maybe, space available, but this is a good time to bring up as part of process redesign by the ad hoc committee
- Questions were raised with details of preparation costs when installing at (for example) the Transfer Station
- The scope of operations is a concern, given the 20 bale collection pickup requirement thus the need to store inventory for multiple years
- Possibility of using a bailer for cardboard, etc.
- Final remark, the concept requires further consideration and socialization with potential partners.
- Recap of recent DRWRC events
 - Lenore: Deep pilot is completed, because the vote on Monday did not approve a continuation. She is encouraged by the large turnout, which allowed residents to be engaged in the decision-making process
 - Exercise during the meeting: post-it notes on what actions are worth pursuing going forward. Lenore to type up the notes and distribute them
 - Static pile approach to composting -- in Manfield – took 5 years to get permitting
 - In general, the concerns raised in the December meeting were deeply held, considered, and of general validity. We think the perspectives learned will lead to better proposals in the future
 - What is the role of the local haulers? Some towns issue RFP and obtain favorable rates, and exercise more control over the features of the service

4. Agenda items specific to the Sustainable Committee

- Air quality monitor -- outreach to neighboring towns re: awareness session
 - Jeff withdraws this item in favor of a better discussion next meeting
- Calendar for 2025 Sustainable meetings
 - Starting on 17th January -- guest is Essex - -gas vs electric lawn and legislative update
 - Switch to 2nd Thursday -- compare to town schedule especially BOE (elementary)
 - Sara moved to approve schedule; Tom second, unanimously app

5. New Business

Publish collection link.

6. Adjournment

Sara moved, Lenore second, unanimously approved