

JOINT SPECIAL MEETING: BOARD OF  
SELECTMEN AND ITS BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON WASTE REDUCTION  
WITH DEEP RIVER SUSTAINABLE CT  
COMMITTEE

RICHARD H. SMITH TOWN HALL

Regular Meeting XX Special Meeting

Date: December 14, 2023 Time: 7:00 PM

AGENDA and MINUTES:

1. Call to Order. 7:03pm- 1st-Marian, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jeff Gross

Attending: Joyce Beradis, Carol Jones, Kathryn Russell, Marian Staye, Nancy Maghee, Sara Connors, Katharine David, Thomas Groth, Jeff Gross, Ron Larson, Lenore Grunko, Anthony Joia, and residents -Jim Lockhart, Jerry Roberts. Absent: Duane Gates, Carmela Balducci and Dorothy DeMichael, Jerry Richards

2. Discussion of thin plastics.

Sara Connors presented a comprehensive review of thin plastics collection in Deep River. We have 5 containers located at Adams (in front of bottle recycling room), Town Hall near back entrance, DR Public Library- lower level near back entrance and two at the Transfer Station. The two at the TS are very popular and we're grateful for the attendants help in switching out the liners and storing the large bags until we can move them to OS. Separating out thin plastics (those plastics that stretch slightly and are clean and dry) has become very popular. Four Sustainable CT members are doing the pick-ups, recording the weight and bringing them to Super Stop and Shop or Big Y where those companies move them to collection centers for bailing and sale to Nex Trex. Nex Trex uses the material to make building materials like decking. We were awarded two benches. It took us 6 months to collect 550 pounds and about 2 months to collect another 500 pounds. The success of finding another way to reduce the amount of garbage into the waste stream has taken off. So, to address this, Sara has done research into getting our own bailer. Costs for a new bailer could run about \$15,000 but a used bailer could cost about \$8,000- \$10,000. The proposal would require someone (TS attendant?) to bail the plastic which we would then store in a container and then ship to Nex Trex. Sara discussed the options with the company who have seen similar success stories. The goal is to buy a bailer, locate it at the TS, collect thin plastics and get money for the bailed plastics while providing residents with another option to reduce household waste. We are looking into grant opportunities. Meanwhile, the demands placed on SusCT committee members to transport the large bags of plastic to OS, continues to grow. We're hoping for some help from the town.

3. Discussion of Dec. 11 Town Meeting and the future of the Board of Selectmen Ad-Hoc Committee on Waste Reduction.

We were disappointed by the outcome of the vote, but optimistic about the turn-out and the possible ways we can make our TS better and still reduce waste without going to the PAYT option.

Since we had such a large group, attendees were provided with post-it notes to provide feedback from the Dec. 11 Town Meeting/ PAYT vote. People had basically 5 categories in which to offer their written feedback: 1. What we should have done in retrospect, 2. What we're hearing around town whether or not it's accurate, 3. What we should consider moving forward, 4. What we did right and 5. Other. These comments are being organized so that they can be used once the standing committee is formed for a Waste Reduction Committee.

SusCT had two more items on their agenda that were tabled.

4. Adjournment.

BOS meeting was adjourned- 8:40 as was SusCT and DRWRC.- 1st- Connor, 2nd- Marian Staye  
LG