



Deep River SustainableCT Committee

Agenda

Where: Deep River Town Hall

When: Wednesday January 17, 7 PM

Attendees: Sara Connor, Chair, Lenore Grunko, Jerry Richard, Nancy McGee, Tom Groth, Anthony Joia, Jim Lockhartt

Called to Order at 7:00 PM by Sara

Agenda items:

1.) Guest Speaker Caroline Grist, Sustainable Essex member

Topic: Limiting Gas Powered Leaf Blowers

- a.) Noise and Air pollutant concerns
- b.) Some states, i.e. California, have already banned their use. Norwalk and Westport have time limits.
- c.) Bans can take years to put in place
- d.) Essex is not calling for a ban but instead looking into grants to offer incentives to landscapers to switch to battery powered to limit noise, emissions, and fuel use. Ms. Grist said all towns and states are targeting leaf blowers.
- e.) Recent environmental bill had proposed offering incentives to change equipment but failed.

f.) Discussion regarding the need for education regarding lawn care with a focus on eliminating/minimizing the need and use of leaf blowers. Offer a way forward and educate about best practices in lawn maintenance.

g.) Further discussion on this topic will take place at the February RiverCOG meeting.

2.) Thin plastics

a.) 2000 pounds of plastic have been collected since last February.

b.) A new bench has been ordered.

c.) Follow up discussion about local bailing. Adams does not have its own bailer and sends their plastic to their corporate office in Cheshire.

d.) Sara is contacting the corporate office to see if we could drop our plastic at Adam's for transport and recycling in Cheshire rather than drive what is collected to Stop and Shop and Big Y.

3.) Updating Deep River's accomplishments in Sustainable Connecticut to determine if we are eligible for Silver status.

a.) Documentation is due by April 1st.

b.) Members should pick an area and collect evidence.

4.) Food Scraps collection update.

a.) High School Cafeteria is now collecting food scraps.

b.) Blue Earth delivered more collection bins

c.) Grant funds will be used for reusable trays and a tray cleaner to limit the use of disposable trays. This will likely be phased in over time.

d.) Continuing Food Scrap collection at the D.R. Transfer Station was discussed. The monthly transportation fee was discussed which is now covered with the grant. With grant funding ending January 31st, Lenore will contact Blue Earth and Carol Jones to determine if there is funding available to keep this popular and successful program in place.

5.) Air Quality information was tabled due to Jeff's absence.

6.) FOI workshop information was shared by Sara and Tom who attended the meeting. Of note were the following: timelines for publishing minutes (7 days from meeting date); approving

minutes at the following meeting, corrections can be made at that time; a quorum requires more than 50% of members in attendance; no decisions can be made outside of a meeting.

7. New Business

a.) Two benches have been received from NexTrek and are currently in town hall. Placement needs to be determined so that they can be installed.

b.) Plans for Earth Day. Possible collaboration with the Garden Club

c.) Source to Sea Cleanup will be in the Fall and all are encouraged to participate

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Next Sustainable Deep River meeting 2/8/24

Next RiverCOG meeting is on 2/21/24 at their office in Essex

Adjournment

Sara moved to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.; Tom second, unanimously approved