

TOWN OF GOSHEN - CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR RECYCLING AND TRASH - RATS

05/14/2020 - 6:30 PM - THURSDAY -REGULAR MEETING

This meeting was held via Zoom Conference call.

Zoom Conference Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88240494267>

Meeting ID #: 882 4049 4267

Option 2: Dial-in number: 1-929-205-6099

CALL TO ORDER: Bob Valentine, First Selectman, called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

ATTENDANCE: Cynthia Barrett, Garret Harlow, Lucy Hussman, Patrick Reilly, and Bob Valentine - First Selectman.

MIRA UPDATE: Bob Valentine noted that the biggest increase to the town's budget is the waste removal cost which will be an additional approximately \$23,829. He noted currently that the "tipping fee" is \$83.00 per ton for every ton delivered to the MIRA facility. Starting in July of this year the tipping fee will go up to \$91.00 per ton. Discussion was had and Bob will contact Don Stein to get an up-date on MIRA as the Legislature has not met for 2 months due to the COVID-19 situation. Bob noted that the last bill noted on the payroll at the May 12 Board of Selectman's meeting from MIRA was approximately \$10,000 for April which they believe was higher due to residents being home due to the COVID-19 isolation and adding more to the waste stream.

DISCUSSION OF RECYCLING INITIATIVES:

- 1. BAY STATE TEXTILE BINS** - Bob reported that he did call Bay State Textiles to come and empty the two bins in town as they were full. Approximately 9,330 pounds of materials have been collected so far in 2020 at a rate of 5 cents per pound (\$466 for 2020) from the two bins and in 2019, 12,430 pounds of post-consumer textiles were collected. The clothing bins allow residents to recycle materials and keep the material out of solid waste stream at a savings of \$83. per ton. He also reported that items have been left outside the bins that are not clothing. Members will start to check bins more regularly and report if items are being left outside and remove them to Public Works.
- 2. EARTH DAY- April 2020 - Goshen Center School** - Bob reported that due to the COVID-19 pandemic this was cancelled.
- 3. ELECTRONICS AND MATTRESS RECYCLING DAY - April 4, 2020** - Bob reported that due to the COVID-19 pandemic this was cancelled.
- 4. SHRED IT DAY - JUNE 6, SATURDAY** - Bob reported that this is likely to be held from 9 to noon as scheduled. Discussion was had regarding combining **ELECTRONICS AND MATTRESS RECYCLING** as well on June 6. Bob will confirm this event and will notify members as soon as possible as additional help will be needed from members to follow COVID-19 guidelines for this event. Signs will be placed at Town Hall, Church of Christ at the rotary and Camp Coch to notify residents as soon as event is confirmed.
- 5. HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD WASTE DAY - JUNE** - Bob will check on this event as well.
- 6. COMPOST BINS/FOOD WASTE REDUCTION** - Discussion of promoting the use of compost bins to decrease food waste was had regarding the following information that Bob shared from the

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USDA via email... "The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced the availability of \$900,000 for local governments to host a Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction (CCFWR) pilot project for fiscal year (FY) 2020. The cooperative agreements will support projects that develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost plans and food waste reduction plans. The agreements are offered through USDA's Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production. USDA will accept applications on [Grants.gov](https://www.usda.gov/grants) until midnight June 26, 2020. Projects should span two years with a start date of October 1, 2020 and completion date of September 29, 2022. Cooperative agreements support projects led by local governments that: 1) generate compost; 2) increase access to compost for agricultural producers; 3) reduce reliance on, and limit the use of, fertilizer; 4) improve soil quality; 5) encourage waste management and permaculture business development; 6) increase rainwater absorption; 7) reduce municipal food waste; and 8) divert food waste from landfills. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service will provide assistance for conservation related activities. Priority will be given to projects that anticipate or demonstrate economic benefits; incorporate plans to make compost easily accessible to farmers, including community gardeners; integrate other food waste strategies, including food recovery efforts; and collaborate with multiple partners."


Discussion was had regarding checking into compost programs in use through Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority in Brookfield and incentives for home composting with bins. Members will research this initiative.

NEXT MEETING: June 10, 2020, 6:30 PM, Town Hall Conference Room or Zoom call depending on COVID-19 restrictions.

ADJOURNMENT: **IN A MOTION** made by Patrick Reilly, seconded by Lucy Hussman, **it was VOTED** to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 PM. Voted unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Barrett, Secretary

Cynthia Barrett 

Received May 18, 2020 @ 10:18 A.M.

Attest Bailey Z. Blevins
Goshen Town Clerk