

**TOWN OF GOSHEN**  
**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR RECYCLING AND TRASH - RATS**  
**3/10/2021 - REGULAR MEETING - 6:30 PM - WEDNESDAY**

This meeting was held via Zoom Conference call.

**MEETING ID 815 9047 0352**

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

**CALL TO ORDER:** Paul Collins, Recycling Coordinator, called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

**ATTENDANCE:** Cynthia Barrett, Paul Collins-Recycling Coordinator, Garret Harlow, Lucy Hussman, Patrick Reilly, Bob Valentine-First Selectman, and Rod Zander.

**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:**

**IN A MOTION** made by Patrick Reilly, seconded by Lucy Hussman, **it was VOTED** to approve the minutes of 2/10/2021. Voted unanimous.

**RECYCLING COORDINATOR UPDATE:** Paul reported that he attended via Zoom the following:

**2021 CT Recycling Conference - Connecticut Recyclers Coalition (CRC) - February 25, 2021 -** Topics presented included organics/food diversion, the bottle bill, unit based pricing as well as other topics related to the waste and recycling stream. DEEP Commissioner, Katie Dykes, gave an overview and recommendations of the CCSMM - Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management. Bob Valentine explained that it is a group of municipalities that are working with DEEP to try to formulate a plan forward. Paul suggested that it might be something that Goshen might want to think about joining and Bob concurred. Paul explained that discussions were had about composting, anaerobic digesters, and the cost of the removal of organics by adding a new system. There was also a Legislative Leaders Panel that reported. Bob explained that what Commissioner Dykes is trying to do is to formulate an amicable solution for all.

**Organics Infrastructure Initiative Meeting - Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management (CCSMM) -- February 26, 2021 -** Paul reported that this meeting was co-chaired by Commissioner Dykes and addressed the following goals:

To increase accessible, affordable organics diversion from the municipal solid waste (MSW) stream.

Facilitate municipal interest in hosting infrastructure.

Improve transparency, predictability, and efficiency of DEEP permitting for organics infrastructure.

Stay informed on legislative proposals that can strengthen organics diversion.

The following topics were also presented:

Proposed scope of infrastructure and services including donation programs, processing facilities, and organics collection services.

A panel of CT CEEP representatives presented on Permitting Support & Plans to streamline current organics processing infrastructure and opportunities which could include different processing facilities and different organics collection service options.



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Panels also included information by developer representatives from organics processing facilities, hauler representatives providing organics diversion services, and representatives with strategies for scaling up organics infrastructure and services.

Paul also reported that there was much more information shared by everyone at both conferences from facts on the weight of organics in our MSW, amount of yard waste, "Pay as you Throw Program", towns such as Litchfield composting drop-off at their Transfer Station, transportation costs of collectors to anaerobic digesters, and that the solution might come from a regional approach. Paul noted that at the 2021 CT Recycling Conference Senator Christine Cohen and Senator Craig Miner spoke on DEEP's involvement in the electricity generation component.

Bob asked about obtaining information from Salisbury on their estimated amount of yard waste in their town to get a better idea of what organics might really be in ours as well. Paul will contact them and report. Paul noted Blue Earth Compositing presented at both meetings about their services for organics collection.

Paul noted that for our next meeting he is working on some training aides and fliers for the committee to review and will be working on freshening up our website on the Town website with updated links.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Bob updated the committee on MIRA and the cost per ton will be \$105. as of 7/1/2021 and the opt-out price would be \$68.09. Currently, the town is paying \$90 - \$92 per ton. Bob and Paul will attend a ZOOM meeting on 2/16/2021 at 10 AM hosted by MIRA. Discussion was had about the current Hartford facility, the location, air pollution, shipping of waste out of state in the future, anaerobic digesters as a part of the solution, and that the facility in Hartford processing 2.5 million tons of waste annually will be decommissioned on June 30, 2022. Further discussion was had about composting collection with HRRA, composting methods currently used by committee members, returnables and redemption centers, the bottle bill, producer responsibility, smoke detector recycling, and plastic film recycling. Pat Reilly shared that the Goshen Library will host a ZOOM meeting on 3/15/2021 with the movie "Plastic Wars" at 4 PM and he will forward the link.

**RECYCLING EVENT: APRIL 3, 2021, Saturday, 9 to noon,** Paul reported that the event will include electronics, paper shredding and mattress recycling. Mattress recycling will be held on the Library side of Town Hall. Discussion was had on preparing for the event. Volunteers will be lined up, the 3 sandwich signs will be placed at the Town Hall, Camp Coch and the Congregational Church, the "Union Bank" banner for paper shredding will be secured and a new sign for mattress recycling will be investigated by Bob. Information has been included in the recent Town Topics and is on the Town website on the Recycling page and will be updated on the Town/Community Calendar.

Bob updated members that we are currently out to bid to 4 possible contractors for the recycling contract and that the Waste Management budget is due next week.

**ADJOURNMENT: IN A MOTION** made by Patrick Reilly, seconded by Lucy Hussman, **it was VOTED** to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 PM. Voted unanimous.

Next meeting will be April 14, 2021, Wednesday, 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cynthia A. Barrett*  
Cynthia Barrett

Received March 15, 2021 @ 11:10 AM.

Attest *Barbara Z. Breen*  
Goshen Town Clerk