

The Recycling Ad Hoc Committee held a meeting on Wednesday, March 27, 2024. The meeting was held in the Council Chambers at the Newtown Municipal Center. First Selectman Capeci called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Present: Steve Goodridge, John Zachos, Jeff Capeci, Chris Gardner, Laura Miller

Absent: Dan Cruson, Bryce Chinault

Also present: Director of Public Works Fred Hurley, Arlene Miles, Jordana Bloom, and Barney Molloy

Voter Comment - None

Minutes – C. Gardner moved to approve the minutes of the 3/20/24 meeting. S. Goodridge seconded, all in favor

Operational and Financial Models/Initial Newtown Plan – F. Hurley reported that there was a zoom meeting with CT DEEP and HERRA regarding the pay as you throw grant. They discussed the timelines for the grant. The current plan is to issue permits as usual and promote the Orange Bag/Trash reduction for those household not part of the volunteer program. Mandatory pay as you throw would begin July 1, 2025. The more lead time that we give to people for what is coming, gives them the necessary time to make the change both mentally and logistically.

It was noted that the Board of Selectman approve all policy changes at the Transfer Station. If approvals are ordinances it goes to the Legislative Council. If there is necessary allocation of budget funding all boards would participate in approvals.

There was concern that if we move to pay as you throw people will start dumping around town. The current fee structure was also discussed. F. Hurley explained the need to come up with a system that works for us. And he also said we need to be mindful that in the future, there may be a need for another employee at the Transfer Station in some form in the future.

For the next meeting, members have requested to hear from Waste Zero on proposed models that could be successful in Newtown. They then will have a direction to start working on a successful program.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:18pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Arlene Miles

Attachment: Proposed timeline



TOWN OF NEWTOWN
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

March 27, 2024

The following is a working timeline and suggestions only on how to proceed:

May 1: Begin selling transfer station permits with 100% verification of users. Use this opportunity to re-pitch the “volunteer” challenge of food scraps and orange bag usage. Tell people that new swap program is coming and the way we handle bulky waste. Provide additional orange bags to those already signed up (although their current supply should take them to September) and all new signees willing to sign up for the challenge. We may have enough to supply all those who have not signed up so far. But, we may have to secure additional supplies.

April - June: Prep areas to be used at the transfer station for a “new” swap program to be ready for July 1st opening. All existing drop off areas remain the same for now.

July 1: Begin rebuilding of wall in the old bulky waste and C & D area on the hill near the exit. Begin promotion of future relocation of bulky waste item can to old location and adjacent to a new large item swap area. Provide change date for bulky waste of September 1st.

September 1: Relocate bulky item can from the recycling loop to the old location. Leave bulky waste can where you first enter the transfer station for now. Both 40CY cans in the recycling loop would now be household garbage only. (Both orange bags and any other household MSW only.)

September 1: Food scrap composting begins onsite at the Transfer Station.

January 1, 2025 Begin information campaign of change to pay as you throw to start the following July 1, 2025.

July 1, 2025 Begin pay as you throw at the transfer station where only the appropriate authorized color bags can go into the two (2) 40CY cans in the recycling loop.

Many things to consider. Do we change the size and color of the bags? (Big and small. Blue for big and yellow/gold for small). Do we distribute through Town channels? Do have follow-up bag purchases available from supermarkets etc? Many things to consider

Prepared by: Fred Hurley