

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION

The Sustainable Energy Commission held a regular meeting Thursday, February 21, 2019 in shared meeting room 3 of the Municipal Center located at 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT 6470.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kathy Quinn at 7:00p.m.

Present: Chairman Kathy Quinn, Allen Adriani, George Brown, Tom Snyad, Vanessa Villamil

Also Present: Fred Hurley, Zach Marchetti, Barbara Donahue

Absent: Mark Sievel, Dave Stout

Communications: none.

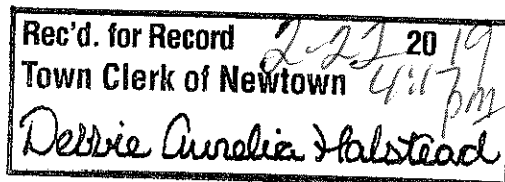
Public Comment: none.

Acceptance of Minutes: A. Adriani moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of 1/17/19.
V. Villamil seconded. All in favor.

Business: Discussion and possible action

- a. **Appointment of a new member:** K. Quinn moved to appoint Barbara Donahue to fill the vacancy on the commission for a term to expire January 6, 2020. T. Snyad seconded. All in favor.
- b. **New Project – Sandy Hook School Solar/firehouses:** paperwork is final on the solar panels.
- c. **ZREC for Community Center, Stratford Hall and/or new Police Station:** These are all a work in progress. There will be temporary contractor's power to Stratford Hall soon. Eversource will complete the utility loop out to Mile Hill South; at that point Stratford Hall will hook up permanent power.
- d. **VNM solar project – Voluntown 2MW (AC) – Credit for High School:** up for construction this summer, should be commercial operation by the fall.
- e. **Batchelder site potential for solar / community solar project:** There are additional remediation items to be added to the project. A power source is needed to qualify for ZREC for the eventual solar system. Remediation should take place this summer.
- f. **Energy Savings program:**
Riverside Road Senior Center – K. Quinn submitted a final report from Eversource (att.). Through the Small Business Advantage program lighting and water conservation measure were completed. There was discussion on a rebate/credit for Sandy Hook School. F. Hurley explained this is not a rebate for solar, but may be related to the lighting project.

Library – F. Hurley met with board members and the Director to explain the Small Business Advantage program. They will likely consider the lighting package; not likely to consider the boiler project. They are running numbers.



Edmond Town Hall – F. Hurley believes they will move forward.

New Construction projects – Community Center - They are trying to get solar. F. Hurley said that exterior grease traps are required for kitchens in any new construction.

Police Department – A. Adriani and F. Hurley met with Kaestle Boos and the engineer about HVAC options. They are going with the variable air volume system over the variable refrigerant system. There will be an energy tradeoff study, at no cost, for adding insulation to the roof and to see if it reduces the mechanical equipment size. If smaller this will reduce the operational cost. F. Hurley said the idea of solar on the roof was reintroduced. There will be an adjustment of VNM from existing PD to the new PD; between the two 100% consumption should be covered. There will be high efficiency boilers. There will be negative pressure areas.

General plan for schools – G. Fiaella has staff manually turning hoods on and off daily, which is not a long term option. A. Adriani spoke to him about the variable frequency drive (VFD) to turn on and off with a control system. A. Adriani is waiting for data on the drive. There is confusion on how the lighting system works. F. Hurley suggested the commission make a proposal to the Board of Education for resolution of control updates. This will save enough in electrical costs to pay for the project in a short period of time. B. Donahue will work with A. Adriani on the proposal.

- g. **Dashboard for website (API keys):** no update.
- h. **Sustainable CT – Program recommendation sent to First Selectman:** K. Quinn requested having someone else take over the Sustainable CT initiative; she hasn't heard back from the First Selectman.
- i. **Develop plan to reduce electric demand charge on town buildings:** this will involve building systems and balancing.

Additional Items for discussion:

- 1. **Municipal Energy Plan:** no update.
- 2. **Energy Star Portfolio Manager:** Eversource has changed their billing system which may complicate the portfolio manager. F. Hurley said he will have an answer at the next meeting.
- 3. **Website – Update Landfill photo, link to Sustainable CT:** K. Quinn is working with D. Stout to update.
- 4. **Go Green Newtown Facebook Page:** T. Snyad volunteered to take a look at this.
- 5. **Organic Recycling – meeting with school officials:** K. Quinn submitted a news article (att.) V. Villamil stated that Dr. Rodrigue asked G. Fiaella to set up a meeting with those involved. F. Hurley said there are plans for centralized digesters to cut down on transportation costs. There are several plants around the state. F. Hurley said that changes in the solid waste contract are being negotiated, beginning July 1. There is a ninety day pilot program, through HRRRA, of glass extraction. Breaking down into three would be ideal: glass, cardboard, and food containers.

6. Plastic Bag Reduction resolution sent to Ordinance Committee: F. Hurley shared a news article (att.). HRRRA will support HB 6011. V. Villamil said it's an excellent bill; something the businesses are happy with. F. Hurley said it was balanced. V. Villamil said a concept bill came out of the environment committee. Selectmen and Mayors prefer a statewide bill over a local bill.

K. Quinn said the state is trying to override the fracking waste bans that have been put in place. F. Hurley said the ordinance is driven by purchasing regulations, which we control.

Adjournment: Having no further business the regular meeting of the Sustainable Energy Commission at 7:54 p.m.

The next meeting will be held March 21, 2018

Att: Eversource report, waste article, plastic bag article, climate change flier

Susan Marcinek, clerk pro tem

System : Small Business Energy Advantage

Run Date : 09/21/18

Project # : CT18-1158965

Status : Installed Project

Customer Assessment

Project Financial Summary (Does not include sales tax)

Summer kW		Summer Demand/P eak Day Savings	Winter kW Savings	Annual Savings	Lifetime Savings	Annual \$\$ Savings	Cost of ("") Installation	Disposal Cost \$	Measure Cost \$	Installed Item Incentive \$	Disposal Incentive \$	Incentive \$	Net Payback in years
Electricity		3.91	2.66	18,667	218,132	\$3,388.42	\$19,818.37	\$451.10	\$20,269.47	\$4,443.35	\$105.50	\$4,548.85	4.64
Gas													

Customer Name: _____

Title: _____

Note to Customer : Fred Hurley confirmed the hours of operation

* Does Not Include Sales Tax

09/21/18 08:51 AM

Customer Initial and Date: _____

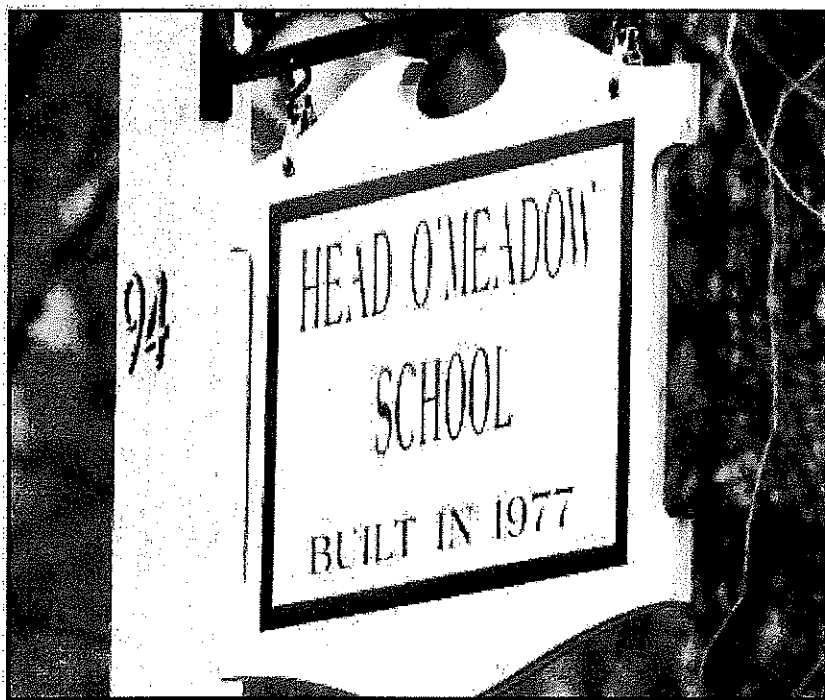
09/21/18

NEWTOWN

Waste plan in the works

Elementary schools to introduce new food recycling program

By Katrina Koerting



Hearst Connecticut Media file photo

Head O'Meadow Elementary School in Newtown, one of the town's elementary schools expected to get a new recycling program in the fall.

NEWTOWN — The town's elementary schools will likely see a dip in their waste next year with the introduction of a new recycling program.

Students and staff will now recycle their food waste in the cafeteria. The program is still in the discussion phase and is expected to roll out in the schools this fall.

"We already have a recycling program; we're just talking about taking it to the next step," said Gino Faiella, the school district's facilities director.

Newtown schools already recycle cardboard, cans and plastic.

Superintendent of Schools Lorrie Rodrigue said the idea to expand to food waste has been in the works and

was included in her budget presentation in January, not only because it will save money but because it was the right thing to do.

"We felt that we needed to take a greater step in supporting recycling across the district," she said.

Her administrative team all jumped on board when she announced the idea, she added.

Faiella said there isn't an extra cost for the program because the Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority is donating the food waste containers that will be used at the schools.

He expects the food material to be collected daily, though where it will go is still undecided by officials.

Rodrigue said they're starting at the elementary school level because it's easier to start these habits younger and build that culture than it is to change older student's behaviors. She said this recycling program will most likely expand through the district as those elementary school students move up through the grades.

There is also more flexibility in the lower grades' schedules to incorporate instructional components into the day. Staff from the HRRRA are expected to come and work with the students to teach them these habits and explain the importance of separating food waste.

HRRRA has already rolled out an organics recycling program that aims to remove food from the waste stream. Several towns, including Newtown, participate.

"It would be a natural extension of the efforts at the town level," Rodrigue said.

Under that program, residents are able to recycle a variety of organic materials, including meat, poultry, fish, shellfish, dairy products, garden waste, houseplants, flowers, fruits, nuts, bread, pastas, grains, sauces, soups, gravy, coffee grounds and filters, tea bags, vegetables, bones and pits. The material is composted and residents are able to receive that for free.

HRRRA Executive Director Jennifer Heaton-Jones came up with the idea for the regional program several years ago as a way to meet the state's goal of reducing solid waste by 60 percent by 2024. She has said that organics are the biggest percentage of the waste stream, which is burned with incinerators to create energy. The organics don't create a lot of energy though because they don't burn well and are more valuable as compost.

Several of the students and staff already participate in this program at home, and Rodrigue expects that will help with the transition and might even spread the recycling practices into the community more.

"There are many families in Newtown that take recycling seriously," she said, adding her husband has introduced organic recycling to their home. "We hope those who have learned some of these habits in the home translate to the school so they can monitor and help and vice versa." kkoerting@newstimes.com; 203-731-3345

2-17-19 News Times

State ban on single-use plastic bags makes sense

Plastics helped save my life.

I went into Yale New Haven Hospital on Jan. 29 for open heart surgery to get rid of a leathery, calcified aortic valve. I got home on Feb. 7.

Every IV line and bag, every syringe, every tube they stuck in me was plastic. The little bouncing ball thing they use to improve your breathing is plastic.

I now have a plastic PICC line in my arm. The list goes on and on. And I marvel at the minds and the technology that form plastics into so many things. (I used a plastic ballpoint pen to take notes for this column.)

"Zip ties are plastic," said Bill Lucey, Soundkeeper for Save the Sound. "A lot of moldings in your car are plastic."

So when people say "We must shut down the petrochemical industry in America!!!" Now!!! I wonder whether they have looked at what would be lost. Like it or not, we live in a world shaped by plastics. (Hey, Ben Braddock. Maybe that wasn't such bad advice after all.)



ROBERT MILLER

There. Now let's get on to how glaringly wasteful we are with the plastics we throw away.

When clean-up crews with Save the Sound and Connecticut Fund for the Environment gathered beach debris in the fall of 2018, a conservative count of all they found was around 50,000 pieces of plastic junk — cigarette filters, six-pack rings, Styrofoam cups, soda bottles, plastic bags.

That is why Lucey and others find the ongoing grassroots effort to ban one-use grocery store plastic bags so encouraging.

"You have to start somewhere," he said. Louise Washer, president of the Norwalk River Watershed Association, has been following the movement as well.

"I'm really excited about it," she said. Five towns on or near Long Island Sound — Norwalk, Westport, Weston, Stamford and Greenwich — have banned the use of plastic grocery bags in their towns.

The movement is moving

Country School sixth-graders continue to build momentum with the Madison Chamber of Commerce's Turn the Tide on Plastic initiative. The collaborative art piece, crafted from plastic bottle caps, is intended to raise awareness by encouraging shoppers to eliminate single-use plastic bags. Pictured are Michaela Troy, owner Bob Fusco, Ryan Hustis, Manager Zach Fusco, Rosie Liu and Tanner Weiss.

Wayne Pesce, president of the Connecticut Food Association, which represents the state's grocery stores, said there are now 22 towns in the state contemplating some sort of ban.

What everyone, even the Food Association, agrees on is that one-use plastic bags are dreadful.

There are 600 million to 800 million of these bags sold in the state every year. They never disintegrate.

If they escape into the outside world, they snag on trees and help clog streams and rivers. Unsnagged, they float out to sea and look like jellyfish.

"They're finding them in the stomachs of whales and sea turtles," said Lucey, of Save the Sound.

They clog up the works of trash incinerators and recy-

cling operations, Pesce said. They're both an environmental blight and a costly industrial nuisance.

That is why, for the first time, there is genuine hope the General Assembly will pass a state-wide ban on plastic bags this year.

The Food Association backs such legislation. "It's a global, international, national, regional, state and local problem," Pesce said.

It also makes sense, logically. Each of the town bans may differ, which means that big chains with many stores in the state will have to figure out what's allowed in one town, what's not in the next.

Caraluzzi's Markets, which has stores in Newtown, Bethel and Georgetown, agrees.

"We support a state-wide approach," Mark Caraluzzi said in a written statement. "The Connecticut Food

Association has been working with state officials and several towns to get a universal plan in place."

"It's the right thing to do," Pesce said. "Hopefully, it's the right year."

If this happens, it would be a triumph of environmental good sense over mere convenience. It's really not hard to carry a bunch of canvas — or even plastic fiber — bags with you into a grocery store.

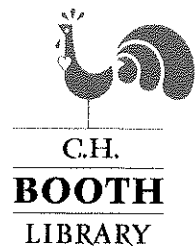
And it might be the first in a series of moves that get other plastic waste out of the environment. New York City, for example, has banned the use of Styrofoam cups and plates.

"We've needed to upgrade the bottle bill," said Washer, of Norwalk River Watershed Association. "We haven't looked at that in years."

Contact Robert Miller at earthmattersgm@gmail.com

Newtown
Environmental
Action Team

**Wednesday April 3rd
at 7:00
In the Meeting Room**



CLIMATE CHANGE

**The IPCC report made it
very clear that we have only
11 years left to make signifi-
cant progress on reducing
our carbon emissions.**

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