

Recycling Ad Hoc Committee
Council Chamber, Newtown Municipal Center
3 Primrose Street, Newtown CT
Wednesday, January 19, 2022

Minutes

Present: First Selectman Dan Rosenthal, Maureen Crick Owen, Lisa Kessler, Steve Goodridge, Ryan Knapp, Laura Miller and Chris Gardner

Also Present: Public Works Director, Fred Hurley and Jennifer Heaton-Jones, HRRA Executive Director

Call to Order: First Selectman Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 6:35pm

Voter Comment: None

New Business:

General Discussion: Jennifer Heaton-Jones gave an overview of the recycling industry/landscape. She also stated that industry investment into the single stream program has been substantial and is not going away. Glass has been a challenge and HRRA has been piloting taking glass out of the single stream. In fact, tip fees do not apply when it is recycled via the Newtown Transfer Station. Another issue being debated across the country and in the CT Legislature is Extended Product Responsibility ("EPR"). EPR will require companies to take a responsibility in the recycling of the packaging they produce, which if it moves forward will likely bring about a reduction in unnecessary packaging and potentially financial assistance to states and municipalities for the collection of discarded packaging. Jen also touched on the increasing value of recycled commodities based on new producers coming on line. She encouraged the town to engage with the Recycling Partnership and pursue possible grants to offset the cost of curbside recycling and recycling in general. Finally, she put an emphasis on educating the public regularly to foster more participation and better recycling.

Voter Comment: None

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:25

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Rosenthal

