

The Recycling Ad Hoc Committee held a meeting on Wednesday, March 20, 2024. The meeting was held in meeting room 3 at the Newtown Municipal Center. First Selectman Capeci called the meeting to order at 6:15pm.

Present: Dan Cruson, Bryce Chinault, Steve Goodridge, John Zachos, Jeff Capeci, Chris Gardner, Laura Miller

Also present: Director of Public Works Fred Hurley, Barney Molloy, Jen Heaton-Jones and Tiffany Carlson of HRRRA and Arlene Miles.

Minutes – None

Voter Comment – None

Price Structure/pay as you throw – Jennifer Heaton-Jones, Executive Director of HRRRA (Housatonic Resource Recovery authority) explained that the State of CT is in a waste crisis. We have 800,000 tons of garbage shipped out of state. 22% of garbage is food scraps. The concept of unit based pricing is having each person pay for the garbage they produce as well as closing the 800,000 ton gap. In the first 21 weeks we reduced the waste at the transfer station annualized at approximately 184 tons. Fred Hurley commented that we have proved the general concept. Newtown has received a grant from CT DEEP to increase food scrap collection and challenge Transfer Station permit holders to reduce their trash.

Jen Heaton-Jones articulated that there are state laws being proposed which would mandate that every individual must separate organics from the waste stream. There are deadlines to the grant and the first one is coming April 5, 2024 which is a letter of intent to develop a plan for implementation of a permanent program for town-wide food scrap collection. Then we have 2 months to develop that plan.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Arlene Miles