

ORANGE RECYCLING COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES  
November 19, 2020

ORANGE, CONN  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
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*Peter J. Scullin*  
TOWN CLERK

The Town of Orange Recycling Committee met on line with the use of Zoom Meetings on November 19, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM. Chair, Mitch Goldblatt presided.

**In Attendance:** Mitch Goldblatt, Ilene Moyher, Chris Prokop, Karen Della-Giustina, Loretta Smith and Wendy Novick. Non-members who also attended –Susan Wineland, Orange resident, and Chris Kelly (OGAT) who was live streaming the meeting on our behalf.

**Public Input:** Susan Wineland submitted questions to Mitch on what can and cannot be recycled which she got from *This Old House* magazine. The items were:

*plastic clamshells* - yes (blister packs - no); *soiled cans, jars, bottles* - with no large residue, yes; *plastic caps* - by themselves, no, but left on bottle or container, yes; *aerosol cans* - yes only if it contained a food product; *packing peanuts* - no (reuse or take to a shipping store); *metal bottle caps and jar lids* - yes; *pizza boxes*- yes, without food, but oil grease is OK; *aluminum foil* - yes if clean, a little greasy is OK; *plastic pill containers* - no, but Whole Foods has a bin for them.

**Minutes Approval:** Chris Prokop made a motion and Karen Della-Giustina seconded to approve the minutes of October 21, 2020. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Financial Update:** There was a bill paid this past month to FastSigns for a banner and new signage at the Transfer Station. The Rotary Club reimbursed us for our Shredding event.

ORANGE RECYCLING COMMITTEE ACCOUNT

11/16/2020 1-056-890-90-956-50

2019

Balance Forward \$1,720.94

2020

Ilene Moyher (Website)	(\$328.46)	\$1,392.48
Town of Orange	\$1,700.00	\$3,092.48
Vent Plastic Bags	(\$186.60)	\$2,905.88
FastSigns	(\$77.00)	\$2,828.88

Affordable Solutions	(\$550.00)	\$2,278.88
Reimbursement – Rotary Club	\$550.00	\$2,828.88
FastSigns	(\$866.50)	\$1,962.38

**Residential Recycling Rates:**

MONTH	2019	2020	DELTA
January	89.67	89.29	-0.4%
February	62.45	66.18	6.0%
March	68.34	80.90	18.4%
April	81.21	84.97	4.6%
May	88.51	80.87	-8.6%
June	76.73	86.13	12.3%
July	82.54	89.38	8.3%
August	76.48	72.26	-5.5%
September	71.65	82.31	14.9%
October	82.81	70.40	-15.0%
November	79.09		
December	77.95		
YTD Total	780.39	802.69	2.9%

**Old Business:**

**New Rack N Pac Shed:** Chris Prokop reported he spoke to the Home Depot manager, who said they've been working on Food Security recently. The manager will return to discussing a permanent structure with Chris in December.

**Simple Recycling at Transfer Station; High Plains and Houses of Worship:** Simple Recycling is now open at the Transfer Station and a *drop box* was recently delivered to behind the High Plains Community Center. A picture with a caption of that drop box was in the recent *Milford-Orange Times*. Simple Recycling reported that it collected 11,600 pounds of items in its first full month, October, at the Transfer Station and paid the Town a little over \$600. Loretta Smith reported she's

still in touch with *Houses of Worship*; 4 already have a program in place and 5 are discussing the option with their boards. Loretta sent them Mitch Goldblatt's picture of the drop box for their consideration.

**Signage at the Transfer Station:** FastSigns made some new recycling signs and a banner for Simple Recycling that recently went up at the Transfer Station. Simple Recycling installed the large banner on its trailer at the Transfer Station using extremely strong magnets. Chris Prokop and Wendy Novick reported they did not see the sign on the trailer this past Wednesday.

**Tour of Winter Brothers Recycling Plant:** Mitch Goldblatt reached out to this facility, located in Shelton, CT putting together a tour for the Orange Recycling Committee members. We are still on hold at this time because of COVID-19.

#### **New Business:**

**Curbside Recycling Schedules on Holiday Weeks:** Thanksgiving is on Thursday and Christmas and New Year's Day fall on Friday recycling days this year. This means Thursday recycling will be held on Friday and Friday recycling days will fall on Saturday. These are major holidays and affect recycling pick-up. Other holidays such as Veterans Day and Good Friday are not major holidays, and, Columbus Day, and President's Day, Memorial Day, and Labor Day all fall on Mondays (when there is no residential pick-up) so the recycling schedule does not change.

**Approve the 2021 Meeting Calendar:** Mitch Goldblatt sent a draft of the 2021 calendar to the committee prior to our meeting. Loretta Smith noted that April 14 is only the second Wednesday in April so Mitch Goldblatt changed the date to April 21, 2021, the third Wednesday. Ilene Moyher made a motion and Karen Della-Giustina seconded to approve the calendar. The calendar was approved unanimously.

**Shredding Day - 2021:** We have scheduled April 10, 2021 to hold the town's next Shredding Day event. The Fall one was extremely successful. The Derby Rotary Club heard of our success and wants to hold one also. Based on our success, the East Haddam Lions Club also had a shredding day this fall.

**Proposed Expanded Bottle Bill:** Mitch Goldblatt attended a State recycling webinar, in which it was pointed out that single stream recycling is less effective with many contaminants, and because not enough people remove bottles and cans that are redeemable. The State of CT redeems only about

50% on bottles and cans people buy. Two ideas were proposed: 1. Increase the types of bottles and cans that can be recycled, and 2. Raise the redemption amount from 5 cents to 10 cents per container. States that raised their amount to 10 cents increased the redemptions from 50% to 70%. Mitch Goldblatt contacted Sen. Maroney on this topic and the Senator expects an expanded bottle bill encompassing items 1 and 2 to come up. If more glass containers are redeemable, it will reduce the weight of recyclables and hence costs to the Town will be reduced. A motion was made by Karen Della-Giustina and seconded by Chris Prokop to support the expansion of the bottle bill to include more items for redemption and increase the redemption amount from 5 cents to 10 cents. The motion carried unanimously.

**Next Meeting - Wednesday, December 16, 2020**

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. after a motion by Wendy Novick, seconded by Karen Della-Giustina, and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Loretta Smith  
Acting Secretary