

ORANGE RECYCLING COMMITTEE
Draft MINUTES
Wednesday, February 15, 2023

The Town of Orange Recycling Committee met in person at High Plains Community Center on Wednesday February 15, 2023. The Meeting was called to order at 7:09 PM. Chair, Mitch Goldblatt presided.

In Attendance: Mitch Goldblatt, Chris Prokop, Patrick Legault, Loretta Smith and Mark Moyher.

Public Input: None

Minutes Approval: Mark Moyher made a motion and Chris Prokop seconded to approve the minutes of January 18, 2022. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Financial Update: There was no financial activity during the previous month.

ORANGE RECYCLING COMMITTEE ACCOUNT

2/15/2023

1-056-890-90-956-50

2022

Balance Forward

\$1,161.57

2023

No Activity for 2023 as of this time

Residential Recycling Rates:

MONTH	2022	2023	DELTA
January	74.06	72.54	-2.1%
February	63.41		
March	68.55		
April	68.47		
May	72.94		
June	75.58		
July	70.71		
August	64.23		
September	74.96		

Mitch Goldblatt
TOWN CLERK

ORANGE, CONN
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED FOR RECORDS
2023 FEB 16 AM 10: 22

October	65.94		
November	76.12		
December	72.45		
YTD Total	74.06	72.54	-2.1%

**Simple Recycling
Textile Rates:**

	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Paid</u>		<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Paid</u>
<u>2022</u>				<u>2021</u>			
January	761	\$0.0575	\$43.75	January	11,343	\$0.0575	\$652.22
February	578	\$0.0575	\$33.23	February	8,004	\$0.0575	\$460.23
March	293	\$0.0575	\$16.85	March	9,780	\$0.0575	\$562.35
April	302	\$0.0575	\$17.37	April	12,941	\$0.0575	\$744.11
May	759	\$0.0575	\$43.64	May	10,335	\$0.0575	\$594.26
June	640	\$0.0575	\$36.80	June	9,608	\$0.0575	\$552.46
July	456	\$0.0575	\$26.22	July	7,132	\$0.0575	\$410.09
August	450	\$0.0575	\$25.87	August	4,991	\$0.0575	\$286.98
September	635	\$0.0575	\$36.51	September	172	\$0.0575	\$9.89
October	397	\$0.0575	\$22.83	October	652	\$0.0575	\$37.49
Nov	388	\$0.0575	\$22.31	Nov	575	\$0.0575	\$33.06
Dec	581	\$0.0575	\$33.41	Dec	310	\$0.0575	\$17.83
YTD Total	6,240	\$0.0575	\$358.79	YTD Total	76,335	\$0.0575	\$4,389.26

Old Business:

Transfer Station Recycling Attendant: Mitch Goldblatt submitted a letter to Bob Brinton, Director of Public Works, on behalf of the Orange Recycling Committee hoping they would consider adding a part-time Recycling Attendant to monitor and assist residents with getting recyclables to the correct stations in light of contamination problems and reduced recycling rates during the past year. Unfortunately, there was no response to the letter so it will most likely have to be brought up again at the next budget hearing in April 2023.

New Business:

Next Shredding and Haz Waste Day April 22, 2023: We have scheduled Saturday April 22, 2023 (Earth Day) as our next Shredding Day and confirmed all parties will be available. Haz Waste is going to participate for the second year. It should be a packed event as Bye-Bye Mattress, Orange Community Women and Buy Nothing Orange will also be on-site. A press release has already gone out to OrangeCTLive.com, the Milford-Orange Times and the Orange Town News promoting this event. The Recycling Committee is hopeful all members will be available to help out at various stations. The main driveway will be blocked off to divert traffic to enter on Tribute Way so we will need to make and hang signs on the sawhorses to indicate the flow of traffic. The Lions Club will be requesting \$15 this year to pick up mattresses at resident's homes.

New Signage Request for No Styrofoam: Ilene Moyher has worked up all the sign's design which the Recycling Committee reviewed and agreed upon. Steve Selby, of FastSigns, is clearing up all the final print details and will begin producing them shortly. Once Steve is done he will put them up in the designated areas we have picked out.

Bag Shed Door Issue: Recently the right door of the Bag Shed was blown off during a windy storm leaving the shed partially open to the days and nights. Loretta Smith will contact her handyman Tad to go look at the situation and see if the door can be fixed and reattached so we can keep the weather elements from entering the shed. Our goal is to have the bags stay dry until they are picked up and delivered to Home Depot by the Recycling Committee members each week.

Plastic Bags and Wrap: The March schedule was collected by Mitch Goldblatt at our meeting and will email it to all the committee members.

Glass Recycling: Mitch Goldblatt spoke recently with First Selectman, Jim Zeoli to see if there's a way to have glass recycling at the Transfer Station. Two containers would be needed to collect the glass and then the glass would have to be trucked to the nearest collection center once the containers get filled up. This task would be assigned to somebody at the Transfer Station. A lot of effort for promoting and educating residents will also be needed if we can get this going. Most likely it would be costly so this will need more talks to see how it can be achieved and how the costs would be covered.

DEEP Grant Opportunity: DEEP has announced \$1.5 million is available in grant funding for technical assistance for Connecticut municipalities and regions through the Sustainable Materials Management (SMM) Grant program.

DEEP invites proposals seeking grant funds to help municipalities and regional waste authorities evaluate interest and identify governance to form new or expand existing Regional Waste authorities. Supporting municipalities that want to pursue forming regional waste authorities will help to alleviate the state's waste disposal crisis by creating the framework and structure needed to develop and implement recycling and organics diversion programs, and/or establish new solid waste infrastructure to improve the state's self-sufficiency and help to advance the statewide 60% diversion rate set forth in the Comprehensive Materials Management Strategy (CMMS).

The Recycling Committee was not sure how to interpret what DEEP requires. Mitch Goldblatt might reach out to if the Town could possibly apply for grant money to implement a Glass Recycling program in Orange. The deadline to apply, if we can, is March 31, 2023.

Lions Club Mini Grant: Mitch Goldblatt heard that the Orange Lions Club might be making \$500-\$1,000 grants available to non-profit organizations. The Recycling Committee was considering how it could be used should we wish to apply for one. The only proposal currently made was to use it to assist 20 or so residents who are looking to purchase a second blue recycling bin by paying half the \$50 cost. Mitch is going to see what else he can find out about these grants.

Connecticut Bottle Bill: While more bottle and can types are now recyclable as we head towards an increase to 10 cents per bottle on January 1, 2024 the road has not been smooth. There was nothing proposed to give the state a budget to allow them to educate the public on the bill and its changes. Recently it was determined that malt seltzer cans have a five cent deposit on them, but spirit based seltzer cans that are only sold in liquor stores have no deposit added on. Stores are required to only accept back bottles and cans they actually sell which can be confusing and frustrating. Redemption Centers have been starting to come back in some areas thanks to a \$5million grant assisting them in funding. More than 300 stores will be getting self serving machines installed to collect bottles. This is just a small sampling of the bill which is confusing and every changing.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Wednesday, March 29, 2023

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM after a motion by Mark Moyher, seconded by Chris Prokop and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Moyher
Secretary