

Candia Recycling & Energy Committee  
Public Meeting Minutes  
July 27, 2023

Attendance:

Committee members: Clay Caddy, Janet Lewis, Dick Snow, Russ Dann, and Al Couch.

Old Home Day will be held on August 26<sup>th</sup>, and the Recycling & Energy Committee has reserved a booth space for the event. A list of items we will need was reviewed and discussed. It was also suggested that we have the carved cartoon character "Oscar" on hand- this is the hand carved image that Leon Austin did for the Recycling Center that displays a love of trash. Russ said that Oscar needs to be re-painted. Janet says that she will contact Leon and ask him if he would do that. We will also get together samples of material that can/cannot be recycled. Recycling literature will also be set up, including the updated page that shows the total town benefit that recycling has done for the town since the opening of the Recycling Center- \$1.3 million dollars.

Swap Shop open hours- there was discussion on whether or not the Swap Shop must remain open when the Recycling Center is open. Al noted that the Swap Shop hours are based on volunteer availability. This is made clear in the Solid Waste ordinances of 2017.

New plastics recycling plant- At the previous meeting, Clay mentioned a new plastics plant that was being constructed in Pennsylvania. Al looked up information on this, and reviewed the details of the new plant. It is a huge facility using the very latest state-of-the-art engineering that will be able to convert otherwise non-reusable plastic into plastic that can be used to produce new products. This will be a model for the plastics industry worldwide, and should have a major effect to improve plastics recycling.

Styrofoam plant- Al also mentioned that at the NRRA meeting, he talked to a company that has a Styrofoam recycling plant in New Jersey. Although this will have no immediate effect on our recycling locally, Al pointed out it is good to know that Styrofoam, which is mostly thrown away, is now starting to be recycled. Hopefully there will be more processing plants built in the future.

Storage for clean wood- When the new brush and compost bunkers were built, the site was revamped to make them larger and more accessible. During the site re-construction, Russ was trying to set up an area to store good, clean reusable wood. A lot of good material comes into the site every week and it is put in the roll-off to be disposed of. With space for a clean wood area, it would allow residents to access it so that much of the wood could be reused. This will also save a lot in disposal fees. Russ said he is still working on finding an area for this.

Swap Shop storage shelf- Clay has been setting aside scrap lumber that has been brought in to the Recycling Center so that it can be used to create a storage shelving area for seasonal Swap Shop items. Canny could not make the meeting tonight, but sent an email asking if the Swap Shop fund could be used to buy the rest of the material needed to get the project started. Clay will look into this and talk to Chuck.

Reaching residents with information- Russ made the suggestion at a previous meeting that we should try to find a way to reach residents with recycling information- especially people that may be new to town. It was felt that if more people knew all the advantages of using the recycling center, we might see more bringing their material in to be recycled. We would also like to reach the people that hire a trash hauling company, some of which do not recycle at all. Russ's initial suggestion was to set up a meeting and try and get as many people as possible involved with the meeting. As setting up a special meeting may be difficult to do, the suggestion was made for us to consider doing a town-wide flyer which would give recycling information, and encourage people to do more recycling. The flyer could also ask for ideas on improving our recycling, and invite anyone and everyone to attend one of our regular meetings to discuss suggested improvements and new ideas. This plan will be reviewed again at a future meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Al Couch, Recycling & Energy Committee