

Candia Recycling & Energy Committee
Public Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2022

Attendance:

Committee members: Clay Caddy, Gail Thomas, Dick Snow, Al Couch.
Janet Lewis also attended as she is interested in joining the committee.
Dick Snow set up the meeting to be available on Zoom.

There was an overview of the town's recycling programs, and how they compare with other towns. The Candia Recycling Center does well on recycling returns as we use the source separation method vs. the single stream that many other towns and cities use. Having the items properly separated and baled saves on storage and shipping costs, and gives the town a much bigger return than other methods. The so-called "contamination rate" of our recyclables is much better than other town programs due to the way our materials are being collected. Also, the Recycling Center crew does a great job of educating residents and helping remove items to keep the contamination rate low. As FYI to everyone- it was explained that each category of recycling has specs for proper/improper items, and items not on the list are considered contamination. The target rate for the Recycling Center is 4% or less. Other towns see contamination rates at 20% or even much higher. A low contamination rate helps in getting the best return on our recyclables.

Al reviewed the LED proposal that was given to us from Affinity LED. They recently converted the town's streetlights and when that project was complete, they did an additional assessment of the town office building and the lights in the surrounding area. Russ could not make tonight's meeting, but when he is available, we will ask him to have the additional proposal discussed at a future Board meeting.

The Community Power program was also reviewed. This program was presented to the committee by Standard Power, the town's power broker. The program requires a separate committee to be formed to oversee the program and to communicate with the community. It was suggested we wait until the next meeting so we can discuss this with Russ, as there may be aspects that need to be brought to the Board.

Recycling Center site projects were discussed. The brush bunker and the compost bunker will need to be rebuilt, as the large blocks that form the retaining walls are deteriorating. Also the ground in each bunker has been dug out from years of scooping the bunkers to clean them out. The bunkers will be moved back a little to provide more room for traffic, and we will look at other ideas at the back of the site to use for storage of baled materials or equipment.

Janet Lewis was asked if she is interested in joining the committee. Janet stated that she is very interested, and likes what is being done at the Recycling Center. All committee members agreed that Janet should be welcomed as a member of the committee.

Janet was asked about her feedback or ideas for improving what the Recycling Center is doing. The only criticism was that the metal pile tends to flow out near the traffic area. It was suggested that in the spring, we could look at ideas to enlarge the metal pile area, and have it pushed back more.

The next meeting will be Thursday, February 24, at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Al Couch, Recycling & Energy Committee member