

Candia Recycling & Energy Committee
Public Meeting Minutes
May 25, 2023

Attendance:

Committee members: Russ Dann, Dick Snow, Janet Lewis, Gail Thomas, and Al Couch.

Update on site work- Russ said the site work to reconfigure the brush and compost bunkers has been completed and the new bunker walls are now set up. The embankments have been covered with soil and have been seeded. Concrete pads need to be poured inside the bunkers and the area in front of the bunkers will be paved. Russ said the concrete and the paving should be done by next week. He is still not sure when the bunkers will be ready to open. The new bunkers will be a great improvement over the old bunkers.

NRRA conference- Russ and Al attended the Northeast Resource Recovery Association's annual conference. Al summarized what was at the conference- there were many vendors from New England and some from as far away as California. The vendors that attend are companies that provide state of the art services and equipment to help with proper recycling of materials. There was also a choice of a dozen workshops that could be attended for information and best practices in the recycling industry. There were three keynote speakers that gave national updates on recycling, where the markets are headed, and what they are doing to maximize the best recycling practices. The conference was very informative, and also gave us the opportunity to give some feedback. We came away with a lot of good information and updates.

Solar review- Al said that Andria recently sent an email from a solar company in Stamford, CT that was working with Eversource to arrange for discounted power rates if their company can set up a solar array in town. Al sent Andria a summary of what steps have been taken so far on solar, and did a review of the info for the committee. The summary of the steps so far: about 8-10 years ago, the committee searched for town-owned land that could be used for solar, but could not find a suitable site. The old incinerator site was then considered, but the power lines to the site would have had to be upgraded at great expense. A couple of years ago, we tried to partner with Historic Motor Sports to buy some of his solar power, but the proper arrangements could not be worked out. Solar power is not being worked on right now, but this will be looked at again if any new opportunities come up that might resolve previous issues.

Janet talked about Old Home Day, which will be held on Saturday, August 26th. The committee will set up a booth for the event to hand out information on recycling and to answer any questions. We will put together ideas on what will be needed for the booth at the next meeting.

Russ talked about looking at ways we could get more people involved with the Recycling Center, especially new, younger residents. The Recycling Center does very well with recycling materials, which saves a lot of money by avoiding the expense and the environmental impact of landfilling. Also, recycling has returned a lot of money to the town, which is a benefit to everyone in town. Because the Recycling Center is convenient and easy to use, it should be a good option for residents rather than paying a company to pick up the waste at their home, much of which will not be recycled. Russ suggested having an open forum meeting to ask people to give us new ideas, and also to give out recycling info. Russ will work on ideas for ways to inform residents about the meeting. He will also try to set up a separate meeting so the committee can meet to discuss how to best set up the forum.

The next meeting will be Thursday, June 22nd at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Al Couch, Recycling & Energy Committee member