

Town of Amherst Recycling and Waste Committee Minutes

April 17, 2024 – Amherst Town Hall

Start time 07:00 pm End Time 08:10 pm

Committee Member Attendees: John Szalasny, Jean Neff, Don Kuhn

Guests: Eileen Torre, Mary Fisher, Kim Ferullo

Excused Members: Megan Reddish

Committee Liaison/Resource Attendees: Mike Szukala, Ryan Licata

- First quarter waste/recycling cost \$1.4 Million – below budget for the year
- Food Scrap secure collection bins now in (cost was \$10000/4 units) – need new graphics that will be done by highway dept. – the bins will be located at the following sites: Town Hall, NW Community Center, Bailey Police Training Center, Amherst Senior Center – no change to current collections at Highway Dept. despite disruption from construction of new gas island
- Finished compost is now screened – need to set up site at highway for storage
- App for secure collection bins needs to be set up – QR code also needed for app – will be able to track how often each site is used - ribbon cutting tentatively set for May 18th (the first day of the Farmers Market)
- 200 residents responded for curbside compost pickup test – Ryan still has database for emails collected for the kitchen scrap totes but is no longer able to use the Mail Chimp account to contact database
- Curbside compost to use compostable bag liners (ease of collection) – 12 gal bags - cost is \$60/500 count
- Current 10 bins at highway are being dumped twice a week – Ryan estimates a minimum of 200# per tote with an estimated \$38,000 in annual savings to town vs landfilling
- Confirmed that Judy Hendee and Diana Anderson are no longer on the board
- Request for sign/handout to encourage people to join the town advisory boards
- Discussions about Village of Williamsville Earth Day activities (June 1) – hand out finished compost – Mary and Kim would do an expanded +polystyrene collection event – Mary to check with Thermofoam if they have flyers for the event
- Ryan was a guest speaker at the NYS Organics Summit on April 16th speaking about the town's food scrap drop off program

[This Must Be the Spot: Food Scraps Drop-Off Programs Across NYS](#)

1:45 PM – 2:45 PM
Grand Ballroom
[Description](#)

Moderator: Angelina Brandt (Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency)

In the absence of widespread food scraps collection services across the state (with some notable exceptions), many communities have begun diverting food scraps through highly successful drop-off programs. In this session, you will hear about the challenges and successes of some of NYS's newest food scraps drop-off programs and the nuts and bolts on how to start or improve your own program.

- Ryan Licata (Town of Amherst)
- Meagan Evans-Saurini (Monroe County)
- Wendy Madsen (Columbia County Department of Solid Waste)

•