

Mayor's Task Force
On Litter Prevention, Recycling and the Environment
Thursday Sept 14, 2023, Council Chambers Overflow Room, 5:15 pm
MINUTES

1. David Herlong called the meeting to order.

2. Karen Mastin, Larry McLaughlin, Alta LeCompte, Steve Karl, April Lane, David Herlong, Susan Inglis, Larry McLaughlin, and Town Council Liaison Roger Coleman were present. Trish Rand, Missy Schmieler and Chuck Schmieler were absent. Town Information officer Tyler Newman was present for Town Manager Corey Gooden.

3. The August minutes were approved.

4. Recycling:

The start date for Recycling is going to be pushed back due to a storage trailer needing to be repaired. Hopefully that will be done by the end of October or early November. The new carts have arrived and are being delivered to the customers who have requested one. The next promotional push for recycling will start as soon as a start date is announced.

The Leo Club at the high school, (coordinator Rachel O'Kelly), is interested in getting involved with recycling at the high school. They would like to have small bins to put in the classrooms which they could then take to a central location for pick up. Corey forwarded their information to Public Works to see what could be arranged. They also expressed interest in helping with litter pick up on a regular basis. We will send them information about the upcoming Litter Sweep, and further discuss a possible location for which they might be responsible. We discussed encouraging them to promote recycling in the Peanut Parade October 7th, perhaps by pushing a recycling cart!

Missy has had 500 stickers printed that say "BE GREEN, Keep Your Town CLEAN" to give to students at White Oak Elementary. She is also getting flyers about recycling to hand out with them. She has contacted the principal about an appropriate date to do that. April checked with the Library concerning the small number of books about recycling and they are going to see about getting some more. She also spoke to Lee Lokima (from the Library) about doing a program at the elementary school regarding littering and recycling.

The group discussed business participation in the recycling program and the problem of cardboard. The possibility of a special cardboard container was suggested. Tyler said he would see about getting a representative from the Chamber of Commerce to come to one of our meetings. Steve will talk to someone at the HS football games to see if they have any recyclable items. Dave has talked to Pizza Hut regarding putting stickers on their boxes saying that pizza boxes should not be recycled. Our next promotional information could include items which are NOT to be put in the containers.

Alta suggested having a recycling information table at her house for the Historical Commission Bricks and Boards awards Block Party on E Gale St, September 23rd from 5-7:30pm.

5. Litter Prevention and Cleanup:

The group discussed signage on the ramps and Tyler said that Corey and the department heads had met with NCDOT regarding the litter problem. It was determined that signage did not help and in fact appeared to make the problem worse. It was suggested that our group give a report to the Town Council about our committee and push the proposal to have part time landscape employees hired to clean ramps. The cost could be shared with the county.

David reported that Elizabeth City has a local Adopt a Street program in place. Tyler will contact their town manager to see what kind of ordinance they have and how they manage the program. We would need to identify someone to manage our program and identify blocks or sections to be adopted. We need to make a list of businesses currently doing this and publicize it.

DOT is having their Litter sweep Sept 16-30. We decided to have our 2nd Annual Town Sweep on October 14th, 9-11am. The group will meet at the Park Avenue parking lot behind the Fire Station; contact any groups that might be able to help. It was suggested that the Town Council Members contact their constituents regarding doing the sweep in their neighborhoods. It was also suggested that perhaps an incentive for participants would be possible. Tyler said he would ask the Chamber of Commerce if there were discount cards available for that.

6. New Business:

Roger reported that the town will be participating in a coastal water study being done by the Dept of Environmental Quality. A planning session for the study will be Oct 19th, our group could sponsor the program. He also suggested that our committee might be able to nominate a business or individual for one of the Recognition Awards given out by the Chamber of Commerce.

7. Next meeting date: October 12th, 5:15 pm