

SOLID WASTE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE
MCCARTY, KENNEDY, KOUTNIK, LAPIN, FARWELL
June 17, 2019

PLANNING/SOLID WASTE- KAREN SULLIVAN

Karen Sullivan introduced new staff person Shane Digan, Planner Trainee for Otsego County Planning/ Solid Waste Department.

Karen Sullivan shared photos from the Open House at the ReUse Store in Oneonta on June 15, 2019, where the polystyrene (styrofoam) densifier was introduced.

Karen Sullivan requested a motion to authorize the Chair to sign the PACE Municipal Agreement as amended. Karen Sullivan noted there will be a Public Hearing in July regarding the local law. Representative Farwell moved to authorize the Chair to sign the agreement. Seconded, McCarty. Total: 2,201. Ayes: 2,201. Motion carried.

Karen Sullivan requested approval to apply for a Climate Smart Community Grant with 50% local match. Amy Wyant from Mohawk Valley Economic Development District (MVEDD) discussed the following, including but not limited to:

- the term of the agreement is 1 year with a 50% local match in the amount of \$70,000
- the 50% local match can be in kind, including staff and volunteer hours
- the Climate Smart Community certification is helpful in receiving implementation funding from the DEC
- partnering with Climate Action Associates LLC
- planning a County-wide greenhouse gas inventory
- municipalities can participate in the greenhouse gas inventory program with in kind services
- the grant will be a resource for resource limited municipalities

Representative Farwell moved to approve the Climate Smart Community grant application with a 50% local match. Seconded, Koutnik. Total: 2,201. Ayes: 2,201. Motion carried.

OTSEGO COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT- JORDAN CLEMENTS

Jordan Clements, District Manager, gave updates on the program, including but not limited to:

- three buffer projects funded through Ag Non-Point Source grants are almost complete
- submitted three Climate Resiliency Grant applications
- submitted two applications for RCPP program funding, working on application through USC for an intern to complete site checks and maintenance on existing planted forested buffers
- submitted two CIG grant applications seeking funding for cover crops and machinery, and a cow incinerator
- moving forward with monthly meetings with the Ag & Farmland Protection Committee
- working with Montgomery County SWCD to possibly use their buyer for Ag plastics
- installing approximately 22 flood gauges throughout the County, seeking funding for flood GPS gauges or camera gauges
- working with NYSDOT to provide a training course in October for Highway Superintendents on properly calibrating sanders
- buffer operation and maintenance: contracted with UCS to maintain 125 acres of buffers, currently working with two interns, checking on tree survival rates, invasive species removal and vegetation management
- 20 loads of hydroseeding spread in Cherry Valley, Edmeston, and Worcester

PLANNING/ SOLID WASTE- KAREN SULLIVAN AND SHANE DIGAN

Karen Sullivan presented and reviewed the following reports:

-Solid Waste Totals—3,849.88 tons of solid waste collected in May (down 50 tons from last year), \$1,150.67 credit to the County

-Recycling Costs for Otsego County—364.14 tons collected in May at an average of \$129.69 per ton (down 131.89 from last May), total costs of recycling including labor for the month of May is \$47,226.16

-Mattress collection for May 2019 was 437 mattresses

-E-Waste Totals: \$18,443.75 has been spent this year through June 11, 2019

Karen Sullivan discussed the on-going challenge of making sure recyclables are clean enough to keep working our current haulers, including public education, inspections, and on-site monitoring. Representative McCarty requested a list of private recycling haulers and Ms. Sullivan said she would provide one.

Karen Sullivan discussed the possible benefits of creating a County-wide mattress recycling program in response to high mattress collection volume, including that the program would need a location, staff, and transportation.

Shane Digan presented a report and analysis on the \$.05 paper bag tax in response to the plastic bag ban that will take effect in 2020, including but not limited to:

- neighboring counties are not imposing the additional tax on paper bags
- the money collected by the tax must be used to purchase and distribute reusable bags
- of the \$.05 tax, NYS will distribute back to counties \$.02
- an estimate of the taxes that may be returned to the County to purchase and distribute reusable bags is approximately \$271,044 (estimated)

Representative Koutnik said that the paper bag tax is not actually a tax because people can avoid paying by bringing their own reusable bag, it's closer to being a user fee. Karen Sullivan said that if the County would like to adopt a local law about imposing a fee for paper bags, she recommends doing it by the end of the year.

Karen Sullivan reported that the 2018 reimbursement rate for e-waste recycling was 36%, and in 2019 it is 0% reimbursement. Ms. Sullivan recommended beginning to charge users for e-waste recycling in 2020.

Karen Sullivan reported that the Unadilla recycling bin removal occurred on May 31, 2019.

Karen Sullivan updated the Committee regarding the Food Waste Collection program: Seward Sand & Gravel is picking up green waste in Oneonta, the program is voluntary, the County could consider a program to sell 5 gallon compost bins to residents to help facilitate composting.

Karen Sullivan emailed the Committee the following link:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/07/world/asia/asia-trash.html>

Karen Sullivan discussed pending NYS legislation that would require manufactures to take back postconsumer paint which may become law within the next year. The paint stewardship program would divert hazardous waste from landfills.

Karen Sullivan updated the Committee regarding changes to the Bottle Bill that would create a \$.05 redemption fee on wine and liquor bottles.

The Committee discussed the recycling supply chain, including where recyclable items go or end up, and that Asia is no longer accepting trash and recyclables from the West at previous volumes because by doing so, they also accepted our pollution. The Committee asked that a representative from Casella Waste come to an upcoming meeting to address questions about where our waste goes.

There being no further business to discuss, the Committee adjourned until July 22, 2019 at 9:00am at the Meadows Building.