

Rhode Island Litter Task Force

235 Promenade Street • Phone: (401) 461-4075 • Email: riacc@surfglobal.net

Minutes from November 20, 2003 Meeting

Members Present: Geoff DiCenso (RIACC), Lynn Ruggeri (RIACC), Terry Bison (DEM), Tom Getz (DEM), Allen Bridgman (ASRI)

Also Present: John Trevor (RIRRC Recycling Program Manager)

The meeting was called to order at 3:11 p.m. The minutes of the October 16th meeting were approved.

Litter Survey Results Update:

Terry informed the members that 11 completed surveys have been returned. Geoff said he would contact the RIACC delegate members of the municipalities that have not returned any surveys and encourage them to follow up. The surveys that have been received so far were given to Allen for a preliminary analysis.

In a related matter, Geoff informed the members that he received a similar survey from Nicholson & Sands, LLP which was distributed to all municipalities. John explained that it was part of a grant program to study illegal dumping. Geoff said he would contact the people conducting the survey for more information.

Dunkin Donuts Meeting:

Tom informed the members that Fred has not been able to discuss this matter yet with officials from Dunkin Donuts. The matter has been tabled until Fred is able to do so.

RIRRC Letter:

The letter to the Executive Director of the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation (RIRRC) was discussed. It is to be electronically distributed to all members for final comment and mailed by November 28th. It was also suggested that some of the recommendations made by the Task Force be incorporated into the RIRRC Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan.

Business Letter:

The letter which was originally drafted by Eugenia Marks to be sent to area business owners inviting them to participate with the Task Force was revisited. It was agreed that the letter should be finalized and mailed at the earliest possible opportunity. Geoff will send John and Tom copies of the letter.

Funds Management/Corporate Sponsorship:

Geoff raised the question of funding for the Task Force through corporate sponsorship to finance educational and clean up efforts. Tom suggested that a subcommittee be formed to look into funding methods. He also suggested that an organization such as ECRI be approached to develop a special fund similar to its Education Fund, whereby funds received can be channeled through the organization utilizing its 501 (c) (3) status. It was unanimously agreed that the Task Force should actively pursue this question.

Members

Audubon Society of RI • Buckeye Brook • Watershed Assn. • Clean Water Action
RI Assn. of Conservation Commissions • RI Dept. of Environmental Management • RI Food Dealers Assn. Sierra Club of RI •
Woonasquatucket River Watershed Assn.

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Other:

John informed the members that Senator Leo R. Blais of Coventry/Scituate has asked RIRRC to re-establish the “Eye on Litter” program. This program, which began in the 1990’s, was a “hotline” telephone number whereby people who witnessed littering (primarily from moving vehicles) could call the hotline and report the registration number of the offending vehicle. Once reported, a letter was sent to the owner of the vehicle explaining that they were caught littering.

A discussion ensued as to the best way to advertise the program. Suggestions included state and local highway/road signs, posters at all AAA offices, posters at all DMV offices, and notices in driver license/registration renewals. Lynn said she would research the “Don’t Mess With Texas” campaign for a similar program. Tom suggested that either the Task Force or RIRRC or both develop a budget to submit to Senator Blais.

The next meeting of the Rhode Island Litter Task Force is December 11, 2003.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoffrey M. DiCenso

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