

Rhode Island Litter Task Force

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

LITTER TASK FORCE

Meeting Notes

December 11, 2003

Present: Geoff DiCenso, RIACC; Allen Bridgman, Audubon; Jenny Pereira, Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council; Barry Schiller, Sierra Club; Anita SanAntonio, Rhode Island Food Dealers Association; Doreen Nicholson, Nicholson & Sands, LLP; Terri Bisson, DEM. Please note Lynn Ruggeri was present but had to leave at the beginning of the meeting because of a toxic odor on the 4th floor from roof repairs.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the November 20th meeting were approved as written.

Eye on Litter Program.

Sherry Mulhearn provided an overview of the program that RIRRC will implement soon. A hot line (1-888-CLEANRI) will be operational within a week or two. People will be able to call and leave information about drivers who they see littering. RIRRC is working with the Registry of Motor vehicles on logistics of obtaining plate numbers. Terri mentioned that Texas also provides people with the opportunity to submit license plates on the web. She will send John Trevor the link.

Litter Enforcement Survey:

Allen Bridgman reviewed the results of the litter survey to date. A link will be placed on the Litter task Force Website to view the results. The response was not very good. Lynn and Geoff will make follow up calls to cities and towns who did not respond.

A discussion took place on various issues related to the survey. Members noted overflowing trash containers and dumpsters as well as the manner in which the containers are emptied create litter problems. Members also noted that construction sites are also major litter problems. Geoff asked what constitutes illegal dumping. Terri explained that DEM addresses illegal dumping of 3 cubic yards or more. Municipalities are responsible for illegal dumping less than 3 cubic yards.

Hazard Waste Survey:

Doreen Nicholson spoke of an illegal dumping survey they did for RIRRC. The results are being tabulated and she will present them at the next meeting of the Litter Task Force.

Dunkin Donuts:

DEM has signed a lease with Dunkin Donuts to operate in the new 295 rest area at the Blackstone Valley Bike Path entrance. Members expressed interest in establishing an eco-friendly facility. Fred Vincent asked Task Force members to provide a suggestion on how Dunkin Donuts could do this. Members started the following list:

- Adequate litter containers
- Careful emptying of containers

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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- Adopt the highway 3 miles around the facility
- Lower prices for coffee in refillable cups
- Incentives programs such as :
 - bring in 4 disposable cups, get a free coffee. (Another member noted this program should also be suggested to the RI Lottery Commission to bring in 10 losing tickets and get a free one to reduce litter from lottery tickets)
 - “waste free Fridays” – get a free coffee in Dunkin Donuts refillable cup every Friday
 - develop marketing strategies to keep RI litter free
 - post effective signage

Geoff will circulate this list to all members to add to.

Business Letter:

Tabled

Other:

Cigarette Butt Litter:

The group reviewed a AAA article about cigarette butt litter distributed by Lynn. Barry will contact the author Barry Jones to find out how he got the statistics on the fines.

Membership- Anita reported that the Providence and Northern RI Chambers of Commerce are on board with the Litter Task Force and will participate as necessary. A suggestion was also made to work through the chambers to get to large companies, such as CVS for support.

Planning - Geoff will pull together all meeting notes of committee to develop more cohesive direction for the committee. Barry asked that legislation be placed on next months agenda.

Next meeting:

Thursday, January 15, 2004, Room 340C, 3rd floor (Please note room changed due to odors from roof on 4th floor.)

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri Bisson

Members

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Woonasquatucket River Watershed Assn.