



TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY

Public Works Commission

MINUTES Regular Meeting May 15, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT

Terry Smith, Chairman
Joseph DeSantis
Peter Vaccarelli
Dan Bartholomew

MEMBERS ABSENT

Harold Zinno
Mark A. Capodanno

ALSO PRESENT

Daniel Norton, Public Works Director

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Terry Smith called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 17, 2023 REGULAR MEETING

MOTION: to approve the Minutes of the April 17, 2023 Regular Meeting.
Made by Joseph DeSantis, seconded by Dan Bartholomew. Unanimous Approval.

3. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dan Norton, Public Works Director reviewed his report with the Commission. He stated that street sweeping took 18 days with one sweeper and one truck to complete. The repairs to asphalt curbs and aprons are under way. Backfilling and seeding will take place next week. Roadside mowing is expected to commence soon. Site preparation for the Shepardson gazebo will occur in the near future with the delivery planned for May 24, 2023. They are in the process of replacing three (3) benches on Woodside Avenue. The

Skate Park will be sealed at the end of the month. The newest Mac tuck will be included in the Memorial Day Parade. Much work is planned for the year, including catch basin repairs, spot milling and paver patching of several roads. Crack sealing, chip sealing, and fog sealing of approximately 35, 076 square yards is anticipated. Mill, tack and a thin overlay pave in preparation for chip sealing next year will occur on Watertown road and Park Road from Stonewall Dr. to Watertown Road. He anticipates having to eventually replace a portion the old steel pipe prior to paving. Additional planned drainage work includes the steel pipe on Mirey Dam from Breakneck Hill Road to Northridge Drive and enhancements of the drainage easement at 133 North Ridge Drive. Upon completion, milling and paving from Breakneck Hill road to Northridge Road will be done with the plan to go in next year and replace the tops on the remainder of the development. He shared that Middlebury was award a grant from DEEP as part of the Sustainable Materials Management Grant Program. It is strictly a pilot program and they will begin to recycle food scraps at the transfer station with the hopes that money can be saved. The tipping fees are approximately \$68.00/ton for food scraps as opposed to the current \$116.00/ton for MSW. He confirmed that it must be brought to the transfer station. Representatives from DEEP and NVCOG are expected to educate people regarding the process and will also be handing out free bags. The orange bag will be used for what is not all food while the green bag will hold the food. As a result thus far, those currently taking part in the program are getting 20%-50% of the weight out of the MSW. He provided the attached documentation for further information. The program is set to start on July 1, 2023 and will be on a volunteer basis for the time being.

Peter Vaccarelli, Assistant Director of DPW, reviewed the following updates regarding his Buildings & Grounds report:

Buildings & Grounds

- Back on the mowing schedule
- Annual fire sprinkler inspections were completed without issues
- Installation of the new park benches along Woodland road have been scheduled
- CAT and Kohler generators received minor maintenance services with no major problems except the reports
- Semiannual slate roof inspections for the Town Hall & Shepardson Community Center were done with no major issues and a few pieces of slate were replaced due to wind or breakage

Town Hall

- Work on the interior stairs is on hold
- Exterior ADA ramp entrance was power washed and the trim will be painted in July, pending spending approval.

Shepardson Community Center

- Painting of the kitchen and auditorium is scheduled for mid-June
- Park & Rec office radiator is scheduled for mid-June
- Park restrooms will open this week
- Quassy and MRA test reports are expected this week
- MRA is scheduled to open for Memorial Day weekend
- ADA door opener replacement was received and installed
- Block masonry at the three (3) parks is in need of repairs

Library

- A camera system will be installed at the end of July, pending approval

Fire Department

- NORA labs is performing testing to determine the cause of the fuel issues of the two (2) furnaces

WPCA

- CO is scheduled for Thursday morning.

Highway Garage

- Durarock taping and painting will be completed this week

4. NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Smith questioned the park bench on Woodland Road.

Peter Vaccarelli replied that some of the benches along the walk fell apart. Replacements have been purchased and will be scheduled for installation.

Chairman Smith shared his desire to personally purchase a granite or wooden bench to be placed on town property on Gleneagle Road. He would also like to have it engraved in memory of John Kotchian.

Peter Vaccarelli stated that he does not believe there would be any issue with doing so but will discuss it with Dan Norton, Director of Public Works, and get back to him.

5. LIAISONS

- Personnel** – None
- Budget** – None
- Park & Recreation** – See Above

- d. Equipment** – See Above
- e. Waste Removal** – See Above
- f. Energy & Technology** – See above
- g. Buildings** – See Above

6. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 P.M. Made by Dan Bartholomew, seconded by Joseph DeSantis. Unanimous Approval

***The next Regular Meeting of the Public Works Commission is scheduled for June 19, 2023.**

Filed Subject to Approval,

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachelle Behuniak, Clerk

Original to Brigitte Bessette, Town Clerk
cc: Public Works Commission
Daniel Norton, Director of Public Works
Rita Smith, Board of Finance Liaison

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY TRASH REDUCTION PILOT PROGRAM

Starts July 1, 2023



**MIDDLEBURY HAS A SUSTAINABLE,
COST-EFFECTIVE SOLUTION TO
CONNECTICUT'S WASTE CRISIS...
AND WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

A NOTE FROM THE FIRST SELECTMAN

Connecticut's trash is piling up, and we are quickly running out of capacity to dispose of it. **Disposal costs are rising** as communities must ship waste out of state.

Middlebury has been awarded a grant from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to run a **year-long Trash Reduction Pilot Program**.

We have to do something to address the waste crisis and get ahead of rising costs, so I am asking all residents who use the Transfer Station to participate in this **FREE** pilot program.

Your participation and feedback will help us decide if we want to make it permanent. Thank you for giving it a try.

**FIRST SELECTMAN
ED ST. JOHN**



**USE THE COLOR-
CODED TRASH & FOOD
SCRAP BAGS
DELIVERED TO YOU.**



**DROP OFF ORANGE
BAGS IN THEIR USUAL
SPOT AND GREEN
BAGS IN A NEW
CONTAINER AT THE
TRANSFER STATION.**

**YOUR FOOD SCRAPS
WILL BE TURNED
INTO CLEAN
ENERGY AT AN
INDUSTRIAL
COMPOSTER.**



ReduceTheTrash@nvcogct.gov

(203) 489-0351

ReduceTheTrashCT.com/Middlebury



**HELP MIDDLEBURY
CUT THE TRASH
IN HALF!**

HOW-TO:

Trash Reduction Pilot Program

Starts July 1, 2023



Q: WHAT'S IN THE BOX?

A one-year supply of free bags: 104 Orange Trash Bags & 52 Green Food Scraps Bags! We are challenging families to cut the trash in half by sticking to 2 orange bags per week.



Q: WHAT GOES IN THE GREEN BAG?

Food Scraps. Fruits & vegetables, meat & seafood (including bones), eggs & eggshells, leftovers & spoiled food, coffee grounds & tea bags, pastas, bread, and grains. Please do NOT include plastic, pet waste, sanitary items, or metal.



Q: WHAT GOES IN THE ORANGE BAG?

Trash! Anything that doesn't go in the green food scrap bag and can't be recycled.



Q: WHERE DO I BRING MY BAGS?

Both bags will go to the Middlebury Transfer Station. The orange bags go in the usual trash area (where you put your white/black bags now), and there will be a separate container for the green bags. Easy, right?



Q: WHY CAN'T I USE MY NORMAL TRASH BAGS?

We are asking you to use **ONLY** the special heavy-duty Orange Trash Bags. Using these bags will make you mindful about how much trash you are generating - the goal is to make this supply last a full year! We are also building the habit of using special town trash bags that help "measure" each household's trash.



Q: DO I STILL RECYCLE?

YES! Continue to put recyclables in the blue bin - no plastic bags, please! Go to RecycleCT.com with questions.



Q: DO I NEED TO PUT ANOTHER GARBAGE CAN IN MY KITCHEN?

Do what works best for your household! You could get (or repurpose) a small container with a lid to hold the green food scraps bag; you could keep the green bag loosely tied in your trash cart; or you could leave the bag in your freezer. Baking soda helps with odors.

Q: IS THIS ACTUALLY GOING TO WORK?

- Turning our food waste into clean energy makes a huge difference. The program also introduces the idea of moving the cost to dispose of trash **OUT** of your taxes and **INTO** the bags. The less trash you make, the less you would pay. With these tools, you **can** reduce your trash and save money.
- You may be trying this for the first time, but cities all over the U.S. (and the world!) have **successfully** piloted similar trash reduction programs. Middlebury will succeed with your participation!

ReduceTheTrash@nvcogct.gov

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HELP MIDDLEBURY CUT THE TRASH IN HALF!

Middlebury Key Messages

Connecticut is Facing a Trash Crisis

- Waste disposal capacity in the US is shrinking. In 2000, there were over 6,000 landfills and today (2022) only 1,000 landfills remain.
- The decreased capacity is driving the cost of disposal higher and higher across the country. In the next five years, tipping fees are expected to double.
- The New England region is expected to lose 40% of its MSW landfill capacity in the next 5 years and nearly 100% of its landfill capacity by 2040.
- The CT MIRA incinerator is no longer burning trash, and the four other CT incinerators have passed their useful life.
- Siting a new incinerator or landfill in our City is not a good option as it can lead to pollution that may be detrimental to our health.
- Trucking CT trash out of state is expensive and not sustainable. We need a new approach.

We Need to Reduce Waste

- Food scraps make up 22% of the waste we currently throw away and can easily be converted to energy and compost.
- There are two proven waste reduction programs that together could reduce our trash by more than 50%:
 - Unit Based Pricing (UBP) programs are used by over 550 municipalities in New England and reduce trash by an average of 44%
 - Weekly Curbside Food Scrap Collection would allow residents to recycle their food scraps and reduce the amount of waste needed for disposal by an additional 20+%

Middlebury is Being Proactive

- Middlebury received a \$115,000 grant from DEEP to implement a trash reduction pilot program at the transfer station.
- The transfer station pilot program is free to residents.
- All transfer station users will sort trash and food scraps in special color-coded trash bags provided by the town.
- The pilot program will allow the town and our residents to try the program before deciding if we want to make it permanent.
- A permanent program could see trash reduction for the town between 40-60%

It Will Be Easy to Participate

- Residents will receive an allotment of free colored-coded bags for the duration of the pilot:
 - 1 green (8-gallon) food scrap bag per week for food scraps
 - 2 orange (15-gallon) tall kitchen bags per week for non-recyclable household trash
- Recycling of paper & cardboard and bottles & cans will continue as usual.
- Residents should tie and close each of the orange and green bags and bring to the transfer station.
- The orange bags get brought to landfill or incinerator as usual, the green bags go to an anaerobic digester in Southington.
- If everyone uses only the allotted 2 orange trash bags per week, it will mimic the results of UBP and cut the trash in half.
- It's not mandatory—if a household uses more than 2 orange bags per week, more will be available, but we are encouraging people to take the challenge.

Middlebury Frequently Asked Questions

What happens to the green bags on trash day? The green bags are hauled to Quantum BioPower in Southington. In this anaerobic digester, food scraps are broken down into what eventually becomes compost or soil additive (digestate), and methane gas produced from food breakdown is harnessed and converted into electricity (clean energy).

How do I sort my food scraps at home? The most popular and convenient options are a 4 or 5 gallon pail or paint bucket with a lid. This can be kept under the sink, counter, in the garage or on the deck, and fits the green bag perfectly. A mason jar, bowl, plastic container with a lid, or coffee can be kept on the counter for short-term and convenient food scrap collection, to be emptied into the larger pail as needed.

How will I get my green and orange bags? Residents can pick up their free bags at the transfer station on a designated weekend.

How many bags will I get in my allotment? Each resident will be given 1 green food scraps bag for each week of the pilot and 2 free orange tall kitchen trash bags for each week of the pilot. A total of 52 green and 104 orange.

Is this program free? The program is free for the pilot. Please do your best to divert the food scraps into the green bag and recycle as much as possible.

What if I run out of bags? If you run out of bags, more will be available.

Why do I need to use special bags? Food scraps make up over 20% of the waste we throw away. The special bags keep the waste and food separated so that the food can be captured and turned into energy. The orange bags are a "measuring cup" to track and conceptualize the amount of waste each household is producing. Residents are encouraged to challenge themselves to use only 2 bags per week—if everyone does this, Middlebury would cut the trash in half.

How can I reduce my waste?

- Reduce your food waste. Keep your refrigerator clean and organized so you know what you have before you shop. Store leftovers in clear containers so you can see what's in them. Use a shopping list. Use your freezer. Reduce other household waste by avoiding single use disposable items and choose products with minimal packaging.
- Reuse: Use reusable shopping bags and coffee mugs. Repurpose glass jars at home. Donate household items and clothing. Consider cloth napkins.
- Recycle: Remember the basics: Recycle your paper & cardboard and empty bottles & cans. Items should be clean and dry and placed loose in your collection bin. Also, try the What's In What's Out tool at www.recyclect.com. Type in the product you are wondering about and the tool will tell you if its recyclable.
- Separate: All your food scraps! Fruits & Veggies, Eggs & Eggshells, Meat & Seafood (include bones and shells), Coffee Grounds & Tea Bags, Dairy, Pasta, Grains & Bread, Cookies, Cake, & Candy. Please no plastic, no metal, no sanitary waste, no pet waste.

Is this program mandatory? The pilot program is free and highly encouraged. Take the challenge!

What are the benefits to this program? The program will have a positive environmental impact because our food scraps will be turned into green energy and waste related greenhouse gas emissions (methane and carbon dioxide) will decrease. Less trash produced is money saved for the town, especially looking forward as tipping fees skyrocket.

Does the program benefit me? Yes, the program will help keep taxes down, will lead to cleaner air, and help keep our environment clean.