

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Work Session
May 13, 2008

A work session of the Jamestown Town Council was called to order at the Jamestown Town Hall, 93 Narragansett Avenue at 3:00 p.m. by Council President Julio J. DiGiando, for the purpose of gathering information to improve Jamestown's recycling efforts. The following members were present:

Michael G. White, Vice President
William A. Kelly
Robert W. Sutton, Jr.
Barbara A. Szepatowski

also present:

Bruce R. Keiser, Town Administrator
Arlene D. Petit, Town Clerk

Department Directors were invited and attended as time permitted.

present for Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation:

Michael Mesolella, Recycling Coordinator and Municipal Liaison
Sarah Kite, Recycling Manager

present for Jamestown recycling (Island Rubbish)

Steven Tiexiera
Cheryl Page

The Town Administrator introduced the participants in the work session and mentioned several steps which other communities have taken to reduce the amount of trash being collected. The Town Administrator stated that in order for tipping fees to be reduced in Jamestown there must be more of an effort to recycle.

Mr. Mesolella agreed that the community needs to be educated on the importance of recycling. Further explaining that recycling is the collecting and separating of certain waste materials. These materials are marketed as raw materials and sold for the production of new products. Mr. Mesolella stated that recycling is imperative because it reduces the amount of waste for disposal.

The Town Council discussed designing a program for Jamestown that would be well run and supported by the community.

Mr. Mesolella informed the Council that the target recycling rate for communities is expected to be at thirty-five (35) percent by the year 2012. Presently Jamestown is paying a \$32.00 per ton rate with an over the cap rate of \$56.00 per ton.

The Council discussed the bottle bill, legislation specific to improving the recycling rate in Rhode Island. There would be a charge on beverage containers sold in Rhode Island,

with the money refunded when the containers are turned in at redemption centers. Mr. Mesolessa asked that the Council encourage the passage of a bottle bill in Rhode Island.

Upon questioning by Council members, Mr. Mesolessa informed the Council that if asked to do so Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation would be available to hold a Hazardous Waste Day in Jamestown.

Sarah Kite encouraged the Council to initiate a recycling plan that would require all resident participation. Ms. Kite reviewed the plan implemented by the Town of Smithfield. This particular plan, "no bin, no barrel" requires each resident to put out a recycling bin in order for their trash to be picked up. Ms. Kite stated that there are other plans used by communities throughout the State.

Cheryl Tiexiera stated that residents should be bringing their yard waste to the Transfer Station for composting. Island Rubbish has in some instances been asked to bring the yard waste to the Transfer Station for customers and will continue to try to accommodate them.

Ms. Kite explained that if yard waste is left curbside, it ends up at the Johnston Landfill and is added to the tipping fee cost. Residents should make every effort to bring the yard waste to the Jamestown Transfer Station to the composting site.

The work session was open to questions from the Council and the public.

Attest:

Arlene D. Petit
Town Clerk

c: Town Council Members (5)
Town Administrator
Town Solicitor
Administrative Circulation