

**RECYCLING & SOLID WASTE COMMISSION**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**March 12, 2020 – 7:00 pm**  
**Plainville Municipal Center – Room 200**

**PRESENT:** The following members were present: Richard Ireland Jr. *Chairman*, George Fencik, *Vice Chairman*, Rebecca Ireland, *Secretary*, Caitlin Prinitis, *Recording Secretary*, Kathy Cole, *(arrived 7:10 pm)*

**AUDIENCE:** Steve Cole

**I. Call To Order**

The meeting was called to order by Richard Ireland at 7:05 pm.  
There was a quorum.

**II. Review & Approve October 10, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Fencik made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2019 meeting as written. Mrs. Ireland seconded the motion and they were approved unanimously by present members.

**III. Bills & Communications**

A. Town Council Liaison

The Town Council Liaison was not in attendance this evening due to a schedule conflict with the town budget hearing.

B. CRC

During the previous meeting a letter of endorsement was approved that was in support of the Bottle Bill which increased the deposit on bottles, including wine bottles, to \$ 0.10. The approved letter also increased the redemption rate that would be given to redemption centers. The focus has been on trying to get a general consensus for the bill.

C. Other

A discussion ensued on the topic of recycling cardboard and the new charges that are in place. Mrs. Cole brought up the PMF charge for recycling boxes of \$40, minimum weight. She inquired whether anything can be done to resolve the issue.

Mr. Cole posited the idea of a town transfer station that would take recyclables, like cardboard. Mr. Ireland stated that the Plainville transfer station is too small to take on something that large. A question came up whether the town was sending their cardboard to Bristol to get burned for energy. The point was made that, as of this moment, it is very expensive for the town of Plainville to recycle in general.

The discussion changed course to the toxicity of plastic and the environmental impact it holds once it is buried. Mr. Fencik pointed out that the inability to process recyclables has become a nation wide problem. There are products that have come out that are either partially or completely made from recycled materials, which shows that it can be done, instead of allowing cardboards and plastics to build up.

Mr. Fencik made a motion to spend up to \$150 for membership to the CRC. Mrs. Cole seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously.

#### **IV. Old Business**

##### Outreach Programs

A member of the CRC has a magic show that is recycling themed. Mr. Ireland suggested getting him to perform at the library.

#### **V. New Business**

##### Recycling Tipping Fee Discussion

The Tipping Fee was handed to the commission by the Town Council. A discussion was held on ways to decrease the amount of waste being created. One option would be to encourage people to buy smarter which could reduce the amount of packaging. If the Bottle Bill is passed, it will help to cut down on the quantity of soda bottles that contribute to the waste. Mr. Ireland brought light to the Recycle CT program, which is a, "what's in what's out", program that could also help. There is a website that will tell consumers what can and can't be recycled.

The pamphlets were brought into focus. Mr. Fencik stated that he believes there should be more definition that is much clearer to the people, with much more detailed recycling instructions.

Mr. Ireland brought up ideas for distribution. He suggested taking out a page article in the town papers & magazines as well as utilizing social media like Face Book & Instagram. Mr. Fencik put forth the idea of sending out the pamphlet with the town's tax bills.

## **VI. Adjournment**

**Mrs. Ireland motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Cole seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm

Considerately submitted,

Caitlin Pranitis  
Recording Secretary