

LITTER CONTROL COMMITTEE MINUTES
Tiverton Library 34 Roosevelt Avenue, Tiverton, RI 02878
Litter Committee Website: Letstalktrashtiv.wixsite.com/home
Tuesday, September 15, 2020 (at 7pm in Zoom)

Attendance at this meeting in Zoom: Joyce Andrews, Dick Danner, Vicki Revier, and Diane Sunderland

The committee meets the first Tuesday of the month from October –June, **except for January, July, and August** from 7-8pm in Zoom (due to the Corona virus). The September meeting is held the Tuesday after Labor Day.

NOTE: Please contact, Vicki Revier, 258 Bridle Way, Tiverton, RI 02878, Litter Committee Chairperson, vjrevier@gmail.com, or Diane Sunderland at 624-8207, if you have any questions concerning committee meetings or litter in general.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFO. SHARING:

There have been a few changes within the committee since our last meeting in June, 2020. Natalie Cote will now be working “behind the scenes” for the committee and Bonnie Kane has moved to California as of August. Cyrie Barnes will step down from the committee at this time but will continue as a volunteer on our Adopt-An-Area list. (We thank you all for the work you have done for the committee and continue to do in another capacity.) We miss you Bonnie!

TOPICS:

1. Update on Fogland Beach/Jack’s Island’s litter/volunteers (Joyce)
Joyce has been amazed at the number of beach goers that have watched her picking up trash at Fogland and have also joined in. Joyce continues to hand out the “blurb” about the “Litter Committee in the hopes of attracting new volunteers to our meetings or to join our “Adopt-An-Area” list.
2. Article about Early Birds paying at Fogland Beach (7/17/20) (Joyce)
Joyce noticed for a few weekends over the summer, there have been town officials at the beach as early as 6am collecting the admission fee for parking. (This needs to be done every weekend during the summer months to optimize income.) Many of the MA residents (with MA plates) know they can avoid the parking admission fee by arriving early.)
3. E-mail to Mr. Cotta about Fogland Trash (7/7/20) (Maureen)
Maureen sent an e-mail to Mr. Cotta, Town Administrator, about beach trash and those that go to the town beaches before they open for free admission. Maureen received a detailed response as Mr. Cotta was well aware of the situation. Maureen responded with information about the Litter Committee’s Adopt-An-Area project, recognizing area businesses that take pride in keeping their grounds litter free, and our partnership with the Garden Club for the annual spring clean-up.

4. Garbage men seen kicking cans and trash to the curb (Joyce/Vicki)
Vicki has left numerous messages for the person that oversees the garbage truck workers but has yet to hear back from him. She will contact the employee above him.
5. Follow-up to litter complaint forms for littered properties (Maureen M./Dick)
Vicki has noticed an improvement on Montgomery Ave. as the homeowner seems to be making an effort to clean up the front yard.

Dick has been in touch with Mr. Kaufman, Tiverton Code Inspector. Mr. Kaufman has left notices for the homeowner on Fish Rd. without any responses. A letter will be sent to the homeowner to appear in court if the homeowner does not respond to this last notice. Dick has been in touch with Mr. Kaufman, Code Inspector.
6. Spring letter to Adopt List volunteers (Vicki)
Bonnie sent out letters this past spring to the Adopt volunteers. Vicki will contact Bonnie as a follow-up for any feedback she might have received prior to her departure.
7. T-Shirts available for Adopt-An-Area volunteers (Diane)
Diane has about 15 shirts left from the Garden Club donations. We will hold onto these shirts and hopefully add more to the inventory for next years' spring clean-up. (Spring clean-up this year was cancelled due to Covid-19.)
8. Electronic Sign availability ("Tiverton Pride, Town Wide") (Vicki)
Lt. Raymond forwarded my e-mail request to the Chief about having the electronic sign displayed in town with our message. Lt. Raymond will follow up with me.
9. Signage in Tiverton (article, warnings, fines, etc.) (Dick/Committee)
Other signs around town have been removed near the Villages, Brayton Rd. near the high school, and near Lil Bear Lounge, after Dick spoke to Mr. Kaufman, the Town Coder.

Mr. Kaufman has requested a complaint form be submitted from the Litter Committee to take for further action in town. Dick said he will take care of this on behalf of the committee.
10. Letter created for businesses with littered parking lots/Tom's Market (Dick)
Dick has noticed that the grounds around Tom's Market appears to look better, however, he did not get a reply to the letter he sent to Tom's Market. (More on next page.)

A letter needs to be sent to Dollar General on Stafford Rd. (Vicki has spoken to the staff more than once about the amount of trash in the parking lot (including the cigarette butts) and around the grass areas. The trash continues to be mowed by the landscaping business which is an eyesore and in violation of businesses keeping their property litter free. (This is a new business in town.)

11. Trash on Rte. 177 and Fish Road (Dick)

The property owner of the area of trash on Bulgarmarsh (dump truck, etc.) is currently in a land dispute. (Trash in the vicinity of Rte. 177 has not been bad lately, according to Dick.)

OTHER BUSINESS:

12. Adopt-An-Area List/Library List (Diane/Vicki)

We have two new Adopt volunteers: Christine B. and Janice C. Welcome! Dianna Parente, at the Tiverton Library, has added both Christine and Janice to the list so they can obtain bags. (Dianna will contact Vicki via e-mail when the bag inventory needs to be replenished.)

13. June Minutes on the Litter Committee Website (Michelle)

The June Minutes are currently on the Website.

14. Essays about Litter (middle School/high School) (Dick)

Dick plans to reach out to the middle and high schools in January about revisiting the essay contest about litter in Tiverton.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Tiverton Links to Facebook (Natalie)

Natalie shared in an e-mail that more people are noticing trash around town and are picking up trash on their own.

One family has a camper at Fogland for the summer and commented on how careless people are with their trash on the beach. They pick up trash and encourage others to do so, as well.

Natalie has encouraged people on Facebook to sign up on the Adopt-An-Area List with the Litter Committee. No takers. She found that people don't want to be placed on a list and feel obligated.

It was suggested that we tell those that are picking up trash that they can get "free" trash bags if they give the Litter Committee their name so we can put them on the list at the library where the trash bags are available. This way these volunteers aren't making a commitment to the Litter Committee, but they are still helping to remove trash around town.

2. Michelle Umahara's status with the Litter Committee (Vicki)
Now that Michelle is attending college remotely (due to Covid), she is willing to assist in keeping the Litter Committee Website going. Mia, Michelle's sister, who created and maintained the Website until she left for college, has just graduated from college and may be willing to take over the Website when Michelle is able to attend college face-to-face. (Vicki will keep in communication with Michelle.)

Michelle has requested that the committee review the Litter Committee Website to let her know of any updates or changes we would like her to make. (Any volunteers??) Please send all changes to me so I can compile them into one e-mail request. (Committee/Vicki)

NEXT LITTER MEETING DATE: Tuesday, October 6, 2020—in Zoom.