

Mechanicsburg CAC Recycling Subcommittee
October 3, 2006 Meeting Notes

Attending: Glenda Boyer, Diane Hollinger, Carl Hursh, Charlie Ryder, Glenn Weber, Cece Vita.

Glenda announced that the recycling tonnages in the Borough had decreased between 2004 and 2005. Residential recycling dropped to 636.5 tons from 812.3 tons in 2004. Commercial recycling decreased from 1949.1 tons in 2004 to 1842.0 tons in 2005. This decline will impact the Borough's Recycling Performance Grant for 2005 and indicates a need for sustained recycling education for both sectors. The committee postured the possible reasons for the decline despite the educational push late last year and it was generally agreed that more needs to be done to divert recyclables from disposal. Carl noted that his experience with the orange bag PAYT option combined with mixed paper recycling has led to decreased waste set outs.

The composting site that will serve the Borough and Silver Spring Township has been graded and prepared by Borough and Township employees and is scheduled to be paved on Wednesday October 4. The site should be able to receive leaves from the Borough and Township this fall and will be open to the public on a 24-hour basis once line painting and fencing is completed. It was suggested that surveillance cameras be considered to prevent dumping of unacceptable materials.

Carl recommended that a combination of education and enforcement be directed to businesses in the Borough. There is at least one downtown business that has refused to implement a recycling program. Carl said it was encouraging to witness a Ritter's True Value Hardware employee breaking down cardboard for recycling earlier in the day while neighboring properties had set out cardboard boxes for waste collection and a commercial waste dumpster on the same alley contained cardboard boxes, #10 steel cans and plastic bottles. Charlie noted that the 1st United Methodist Church is doing a good job with its recycling. Carl suggested that the businesses and institutions that are properly recycling that should be recognized in the Borough newsletter or by the Chamber of Commerce.

Glenda reported that Kraft paper grocery bags for recycling mixed paper are available at the Borough Office and are appreciated by office visitors. Cece noted that Weiser's Market is now offering its customers Kraft paper bags with handles. Carl remarked that through personal experience it is hard to get the message across that unwanted mail, telephone books, magazines, catalogs and glossy papers can be recycled with newspapers.

Jubilee Day recycling and the experiences of the day were discussed. While most of the vendors cooperated with recycling, some left a mess behind and there was at least one instance of grease poured down a storm drain, suggesting that vendors need to be reminded each year of recycling and waste requirements. Volunteers for the recycling

collection should be commended, including Glenda Boyer, Paul Garrett, Jonathon Stough, Cece Viti, and Glenn Weber. It was noted that the number of recycling containers was less than previous years (Carl counted 21) and that the volume of waste generated exceeded the capacity of the 30 cubic yard waste container. Carl distributed photos of the waste container. Charlie noted that the Borough will be installing additional sidewalk trash and recycling containers. Carl suggested that the Borough or Chamber of Commerce invest in additional recycling containers. Ideally, there should be a recycling container at every trash can location. A type of container being used successfully for fairs in Lancaster County would be worth considering because of the cost and the ease of storage. The containers consist of a collapsible metal frame, a restricted opening plastic lid with recycling instructions, and clear plastic bags marked with recycling messages. The cost is in the neighborhood of \$50.00 for the frame and the first set of the specially imprinted bags. The containers are available from the same vendor that supplies the orange Penn Waste PAYT bags. Carl noted that the cardboard recycling drop-off container was completely filled the day after Jubilee Day. The Borough will receive a report from Penn Waste accounting for the recyclables collected from Jubilee Day. Charlie suggested that arrangements be made with Penn Waste to be sure to service the cardboard container the day before Jubilee Day to help assess the effectiveness of the Jubilee Day recycling program.

Glenn Weber displayed a rubber paving block that could be considered for trial use in the Borough, perhaps in the plaza on the square at PNC Bank. The paver weighed 54 pounds and was made of recycled rubber by a New York based company. Carl pointed out that the outside running track at the High School was made with a rubberized asphalt coating manufactured in Lancaster and may be more conducive for sidewalk applications. The same company, Dodge-Regupol, makes rubber pavers. (note: similar Dodge-Regupol rubber pavers are used to form walkways on the roof of the Rachel Carson State Office Building in Harrisburg). Charlie suggested that additional information is needed on where the pavers have been used for sidewalk installations and what the experience has been. Glenda added that the Borough was considering rubberized sidewalks as a means of remedying uneven sidewalks.

A discussion was held regarding the use of proceeds from the Borough's recent Recycling Performance Grant. \$42,283 was earned for the Borough's General Fund, of which \$7,000 was allocated by borough Council for recycling education. Carl suggested that grant funds also be used for public improvements, such as a bus shelter at the square, and noted that the use of funds may be restricted in future years if pending legislation to extend the Recycling Fee is passed. Glenn Weber suggested that the Borough should have a public restroom. The subcommittee expects to discuss the use of the \$7,000 in earmarked recycling educational funds at a November meeting.