

Donna Conkling

From: Mayra Rodriguez Valladares <mrvassoc@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 10:25 AM
To: Mayor; dpekarek@verizon.net
Cc: Donna Conkling; Michelle Sterling; Ron Schulhof; dwilson@scarsdaleschools.org
Subject: Sanitation Study and Tonight's Meeting

Dear Mayor,

I trust that you are well. I would like to thank the members of the Conservation Advisory Council for the sanitation study. Given my research projects at work and at the Forum, I have an idea of how much work this takes. I commend you for this contribution to Scarsdale and probably surrounding communities.

Michelle and Ron know that my husband, Brice, and I have been enthusiastic supporters of food recycling. I have periodically given them feedback about this good initiative. For example, I recommended that they translate their brochures into Mandarin and Spanish, since there are a lot of caregivers and visiting family members in Scarsdale whose first languages are the aforementioned. I also told Michelle and Ron how much we like the perforated lids as opposed to the others, because they greatly reduce the odor. I have also recommended to them to bring their recycling literature to the Sports Jamboree, Halloween parade and the Education Committee Live Poll event, so that they can add to their ongoing efforts to make the community aware of what this committee does.

I hope that at this evening's meeting you can address two things. First, in the study it is stated, "Although we have a very successful food scrap recycling drop-off site program, providing our residents with a curbside service will significantly increase the ease, participation and amount of food scraps that are recycled." Please let the community know what percent of households participate in food scrap recycling presently. Please provide a metric that shows what you mean by successful. In comparison to what? Another municipality? Or is it in comparison to other initiatives that your committee has undertaken before? Also, please provide information as to how you know that curbside service would increase food recycling participation. Did you conduct a survey? Is this based on what you have seen happen in other municipalities? Answers, especially with data, to the above questions would be very informative and useful to residents as we all discuss how your proposal could be implemented successfully.

Secondly, whatever you end up implementing, I urge you to make provisions for the elderly and disabled. We are fortunate in Scarsdale to have many educated and creative residents. Please work hard not to impose physical or increased tax burdens on the elderly and disabled.

In the last two years, we have had so much fighting in this town: the unresolved Ryan reval disaster which continues to be very punitive to hundreds of households, rumors of repeated backstabbing and character assassination at the Citizens Nominating Committee meetings, tree code disagreements, nasty fighting over Greenacres new school vs. renovate groups, and now the school bond arguments. I beg you to please not let possible changes of sanitation services also descend into another battle to further divide residents. Surely, your committee, with the help of in depth and diverse community input, can come up with a program that protects our environment, keeps Scarsdale aesthetically pleasing, but that takes care of elderly and disabled residents for whom your current proposal as it presently stands, would be a burden.

Thanks for all your volunteer hours. I wish you success in all your recycling and LED initiatives.

Very best,
Mayra Kirkendall-Rodriguez
Fox Meadow Road