



H·R·R·A
www.hrra.org

Old Town Hall
162 Whisconier Road
Brookfield, CT 06804

203.775.6256 x304
203.740.9167
info@hrra.org

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**Regional Recycling Task Force
Thursday, February 7, 2008, 10:30 a.m.
Brookfield Town Hall – Second Floor Conference Room**

MINUTES

The meeting came to order at 10:40 a.m. with eight members present.

Dorina Leslie	Brookfield Schools - unofficial
Phil Ross	New Fairfield Schools
Ruth Byrnes	Town of Sherman
Wendy Lionetti	Town of Ridgefield
Arlene Miles	Town of Newtown
Tom McSherry	New Milford Schools
Teri Yonsky	Bethel Schools
Cheryl Reedy	HRRRA

Minutes – Motion by A. Miles, second by R. Byrnes, to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2008 RRTF meeting as presented. **Vote:** All in favor.

Poster Contest Update

C. Reedy read the list of town/school coordinators names for the poster contest she has received by the due date of January 31. All coordinators have been contacted by e-mail with additional instructions, a list of other coordinators in the region and key dates for the contest.

W. Lionetti noted that she and V. Roebuck will serve as the coordinators for both the Town of Ridgefield and the Ridgefield Public Schools, so any inquiries from the Ridgefield schools should be directed to her. T. Yonsky said that she would serve as the coordinator for the Bethel schools. P. Ross and T. Yonsky both asked to be added to the coordinator list for any communications from HRRRA.

D. Leslie had a number of questions about the responsibilities of local coordinators and how individual school coordinators should work together within their municipality. She said there was a misunderstanding about how many winners should be chosen and asked that C. Reedy send additional communication to all coordinators.

To insure that a sufficient number of prizes have been ordered, C. Reedy asked coordinators to let her know approximately how many students will be participating in each community in total. Judging posters to choose the regional winners will take place at the next RRTF meeting on March 6, 2008.

Nike Reuse-a-Shoe

R. Byrnes shared a [press release](#) she prepared for the Sherman School's participation in the [Nike Reuse-a-Shoe](#) program this spring. She is going to change one item in the press release to indicate that gently used shoes should be donated to Goodwill or a local thrift shop for reuse and that donations to the Reuse-a-Shoe program should include not-so-gently used athletic shoes. Information from the [CT Recyclers Coalition](#) on the program in Connecticut was distributed to members. D. Leslie indicated that her son would be taking on the Reuse-a-Shoe program as a project this spring in Brookfield. P. Ross indicated that he would consider the program in the New Fairfield schools. While the program will not be done on a region-wide basis this spring, those towns and schools that do participate will be in touch with each other to explore the economies of scale for working together to get the collected shoes to their final destination in Connecticut.

Community Pledge Programs

C. Reedy passed out examples of climate change pledge programs involving recycling from various parts of the state including the State of Connecticut's [One Thing](#), the DEP Climate Change [What Can I Do](#), the Town of Fairfield's [Town Green Pledge](#), and the Town of New Fairfield's [Going Green Pledge](#). A future RRTF meeting will focus on the relationship between recycling and climate change so that members are armed with sufficient information to make the case locally.

There was considerable discussion about the technical requirements for online maps that turned houses green for residents who signed a pledge. C. Reedy reported that a high school student in New Fairfield developed the mapping for that community's project using Google maps. For residents who sign up online, the program turns the house green in real time, without any additional human intervention, by plotting geographic coordinates based on the address entered. Paper pledges still have to be manually entered into the database. She will contact the student for permission to share his e-mail address with towns that might be interested in using this program.

Issues Raised by Members

W. Lionetti brought samples of all the information and handouts she collected at the environmentally preferable purchasing expo she attended in Massachusetts late last year.

R. Byrnes reported that she had found a resource for recycling #5 plastic yogurt containers that actually pays \$.02 for small containers and \$.05 for large containers. The website for additional information and sign up can be found at <http://www.terracycle.net/brigades/>. This is exciting since she has had several residents call in the last couple of weeks looking to recycle their used yogurt containers.

With no further business to come before the RRTF, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 6, 2008, 10:30 a.m. at the Brookfield Town Hall. The meeting will be devoted to choosing the regional winners of the Earth Day Recycling Poster Contest.