



H·R·R·A
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**Regional Recycling Task Force Meeting
Thursday, September 4, 2008, 10:30 a.m.
Brookfield Town Hall
Second Floor Conference Room**

MINUTES

The September meeting of the RRTF was called to order at 10:35a.m. The following members were in attendance: T. Newsome, P. Ross, W. Lionetti, R. Byrnes, S. Von Holt, T. McSherry, A. Miles, B. Germinaro, A. Oddo, C. Goodrich, M. Pascento and C. Reedy.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Motion by T. McSherry, second by R. Byrnes, to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2008 RRTF meeting as presented. **Vote:** All in favor.

Update on White Street transfer station activities

C. Reedy updated the members on HRRA's plans to bid to obtain the White Street transfer station assets and operate them in the public interest when they are auctioned off by the federal government.

07-08 Tonnage Reports

Not yet available.

Progress to Date on 2008 Recycling Goals

Members present reported progress to date on the recycling goals they set in December 2007.

Town of Redding – Tom Newsome

- Develop a standard recycling program to give to schools on a CD or DVD
 - Goal too aggressive. Will not be able to do.
- Maintain town's status as a model recycling community as designated by DEP
 - Met goal
- Work to keep costs to minimum for the town with contracts expiring in 2009
 - Met goal

New Fairfield Public Schools – Phil Ross

- Review and begin to replace polystyrene and Styrofoam products from school kitchens with more environmentally friendly products.

- Eliminated plates from school cafeterias and using fewer trays. Will chip away at totally eliminating these products every year as budgets permit.
- Collect and recycle plastic drink bottles in the Middle School.
 - Collecting cans, bottles and plastics in all schools.
- Collect and recycle plastic drink bottles on the Rebel Turf Field.
 - Still to be done.

Town of New Milford – Suzanne Von Holt

- Set default for two-sided use on town copiers and use both sides of all pieces of paper generated in the town hall.
 - Instituted white paper recycling at Town Hall
- Collect cans and bottles in town hall for recycling.
 - Not yet in place
- Review cleaning products used and make changes where appropriate for less toxic, but effective, alternatives.
 - Not yet any time to do
- Turn off lights in offices on sunny days.
 - Implemented by S. Von Holt
- New – Became an America the Beautiful town

Town of Bethel – Amy Oddo (Unofficial participant)

- Have First Selectman appoint a representative for the Town of Bethel to the RRTF.
 - Goal not met!

Bethel Public Schools – Bob Germinaro

- Collect bottles and cans in classrooms and cafeterias for recycling.
 - Met goal
- Supply paper recycling bins to every classroom.
 - Met goal
- Have each Principal set their own school's new recycling initiative for 2008.
 - Not enough time to do yet
- Include a statement in each bid spec for the district stating a preference for recycled products and doing business with companies that recycle and otherwise respect the environment.
 - Met goal
- Standardize the town and school recycling programs.
 - HS custodial staff turnover high and new staff needs training to move forward. Town Park and Rec does not buy into need for recycling on fields.
- Recognize employee recycling efforts in their yearly reviews.
 - Not yet met

Town of Newtown – Arlene Miles

- Educate the community about how recycling impacts the environment.
 - In progress – has attended town functions, made presentations in the schools and spoken to civic organizations about recycling. Still difficult to get buy in on recycling from school system.

- Get the word out to the community about the town's curbside recycling program.
 - See above
- Take 3 test neighborhoods, sample the number of households currently recycling, send a different ad to each neighborhood, then re-sample the households to determine which ad was most effective in increasing curbside recycling.
 - Lost student mentee who was going to do this project. Can no longer do.

Town of Sherman – Ruth Byrnes

- Educate the adult population, especially those without children in school, about recycling.
 - Implemented Sherman Green Community Pledge program, recycling webpage in progress, implemented yogurt container recycling program
- Work with the Sherman Merchants and Tradesmen Association to sponsor two roadside cleanups.
 - Spring event was huge success. Another planned for the Fall.
- Place more recycling containers in all town buildings.
 - Tried for a number of grants to purchase containers but have been unsuccessful so far in obtaining funding
- Continue to implement the recommendations made by NERC from its September review of town and school recycling efforts.
 - Did not report on
- Explore a food waste recycling program with the schools, American Pie restaurant and IGA grocery store in town.
 - On hold until New Milford Farms odor issue is resolved.

The Sherman School – Mike Pascento

- Continue plastic bottle recycling but try to wean out use of plastic bottles at the school by encouraging reusable water bottles for students/staff and coffee mugs for teachers.
 - Met goal
- Students who “get caught” recycling get trash cash bucks that they can use to buy an extra recess, lunch with a favorite teacher, etc.
 - Met goal. No longer requires treat to elicit desired behavior.
- Eliminate use of Styrofoam trays in school cafeteria.
 - Met goal
- Provide drop off opportunities once or twice a year at the school for children whose parents don't recycle at home.
 - Did not report on
- Third grade to take part in the Reuse-a-Shoe program in Spring 2008.
 - Met goal. Will participate again in 2009.
- New – School calendar only available online not sent home in every student backpack
- New – 3rd grade teachers doing a bottle drive this school year
- New – School staff meeting with maintenance company and hauler to see how school could do a better job and recycle more
- New- School will have a Recycling Committee this year

New Milford Public Schools – Tom McSherry

- Push the schools to be more involved and visible in their efforts towards recycling.
 - Making slow progress
- Get more "buy in" from staff on recycling.
 - Still work to be done. Have a few staff members willing to help/support recycling program
- Get more "buy in" from school visitors who still throw recyclables in the trash even though there are recycling bins right next to them.
 - Still a big issue with outdoor and high visibility events the worst

Town of Ridgefield – Wendy Lionetti

- Collecting recyclables on fields still a big issue. Wants to involve more people to take responsibility such as sports parents, etc. Can't be done by only a few.
- Recycling instituted for concert in the park, sidewalk sales, etc. Park and Rec collects bags and takes to local recycling center.

Issues Raised by Members

- New Milford and New Fairfield public schools have contracted with All American Waste, LLC to collect solid waste and recycling from school properties and facilities. P. Ross and T. McSherry asked about All American's responsibility to deliver the collected recyclables to RTI rather than to Murphy Road Recycling. The single stream recycling that All American provides to these schools cannot be tipped at RTI due to the co-mingling of bottles & cans and fiber. C. Reedy said that to meet the requirements of each town's contract with HRRRA, All American would either have to separate the single stream recycling after collection and deliver it to RTI or would have to pay HRRRA the current revenue sharing fee for all tonnage diverted from RTI in abrogation of the towns' contracts and the schools' bid specifications.

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.