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**Regional Recycling Task Force Meeting
Thursday, October 2, 2008, 10:30 a.m.
Brookfield Town Hall
Second Floor Conference Room**

MINUTES

The October meeting of the RRTF was called to order at 10:35a.m. The following members were in attendance: L. Morelli, D. Leslie, P. Ross, T. Cutsumpas, T. McSherry, M. Pascento and E. Rossini. The Task Force also welcomed new members from Stew Leonard's, Nicole Weiss and Barbara Bucknam.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Motion by P. Ross, second by T. McSherry, to approve the minutes of the September 4, 2008 RRTF meeting as presented. **Vote:** All in favor.

Updates on 2008 Goals

Brookfield

D. Leslie submitted the following for the record about Brookfield schools' progress towards its goals for 2008: "We accomplished our goal of recycling plastic bottles, office paper and cardboard. Recycling is going strong in Brookfield, and we hope to educate more parents every month about the importance of going green. We've accomplished this by selling reusable grocery bags at school events and reporting the amount of trees saved and plastic bottles recycled every month. The students have also given tips on how to reduce, reuse and recycle every week, and these tips are printed in the monthly newsletter which goes home to parents. Presently, Huckleberry Hill School is hoping to build a greenhouse on school grounds and implement a school food waste (composting) program. I have contacted the Mansfield Middle School and am hoping to set up a field trip to their school. Teachers, curriculum leaders and PTO parents will learn how the school goes about composting and how they organize their spring plant sale. The group is applying for zoning applications and grants from the Brookfield Education Foundation. Everyone is very excited!" L. Morelli reported that the High School is creating some type of environmental program in honor of P. J. Zgusenski. D. Leslie also noted that Center School will do a 3rd grade recycling refresher during the year and Whisconier School is now recycling print cartridges.

Danbury

T. Cutsumpas reported that the City recently entered into a contract with AWD to collect all paper at 16 city buildings. Under the agreement, AWD will supply a bin for each floor in each building and will pay the City \$100 per month if minimum tonnage guarantees are met. The

agreement is expected to save disposal fees for the City. The Danbury school system is using Hudson Baylor for paper recycling.

New Milford

T. McSherry announced that the New Milford schools' food waste and serve ware will be going to New Milford Farms to be recycled within the next two weeks. Garick, the owners of New Milford Farms, is provided the collection for the organic waste.

Ridgefield

E. Rossini noted that the Boy Scouts are collecting deposit bottles in town with the proceeds going to Habitat for Humanity. RACE is addressing confusing signage at the Recycling Center where Hudson Baylor will soon start taking clamshells and yogurt containers. The recycling bins are working for the youth football program. And there will be recycling information available at Fall in Love with Ridgefield Day.

Sherman

M. Pascento was pleased to report that the Sherman School's hauler is now able to accept cardboard and newspaper mixed in the same container, alleviating a space problem for recycling containers at the school.

Stew Leonard's

Barbara Bucknam explained that Stew's has a Green Team of which she and Nicole are members. The team works to green various aspects of the operation. The Norwalk public schools are working to get rid of food trays in their cafeterias. A company in Boston is buying food waste and making it into organic fertilizer that students can sell.

Plans for America Recycles Day?

M. Pascento noted that there are plans for an event to recognize America Recycles Day at the Sherman IGA. B. Bucknam reported that Stew Leonard's is also considering some type of recognition.

National Recycling Coalition Annual Congress & Expo Update

C. Reedy reported that the economy apparently affected the number of exhibitors and attendees at the Congress in Pittsburgh which was smaller than in previous years. The hot topic in recycling right now is Zero Waste, which focuses on reducing waste by 80-90%, not necessarily zero, but uses zero as its goal. Besides recycling, there is a lot of focus on product stewardship and packaging in the Zero Waste movement. Single stream recycling remains the wave of the future in curbside recycling programs across the country.

Issues Raised by Members

T. Cutsumpas asked about whether political campaign signs can be recycled. He is going to ask the GOP in Danbury to take the lead on this after the election.

C. Reedy reminded everyone about the small grant opportunity available from Northeast Utilities for recycling bins.

With great sadness and affection, C. Reedy noted the passing of another member of the Task Force, Tom Newsome from Redding.

Without objection the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.