



H·R·R·A
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**Regional Recycling Task Force
Thursday, November 1, 2007. 10:30 a.m.
Brookfield Town Hall**

MINUTES

The meeting came to order at 10:32 a.m. with nine members and three guests in attendance.

Members attending were:

Pam Brown	Brookfield
Ruth Byrnes	Sherman
Tom McSherry	New Milford BOE
Arlene Miles	Newtown
Phil Ross	New Fairfield BOE
Amy Oddo	Bethel (unofficial)
Dave Seegers	Sherman BOE
Bob Germinaro	Bethel BOE
Cheryl Reedy	HRRRA

Guests present were: Mike Pascento, Sherman School Assistant Principal, Pat Caruso, owner of Associated Refuse Service, and Myron Hirschman, Operations Manager at New Milford Farms.

Minutes

Motion by A. Miles, second by T. McSherry, to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2007 meeting as presented. **Vote:** All in favor.

2008 Meeting Dates

By consensus the Task Force agreed to meet on the first Thursday of each month except July in 2008, from 10:30 a.m. to Noon, in the Brookfield Town Hall second floor conference room.

Student Recycling Poster Contest

Task Force members reviewed the draft recycling poster contest rules, timetable, guidelines, etc. The timeline seems reasonable and misses the CMT testing during the first 12 days of March. There was discussion about a less wordy contest title, but in the end, most members thought the title was fine. C. Reedy will finalize the poster contest information and make copies for distribution to local schools that members can pick up at the December meeting.

Composting

Myron Hirschman, Operations Manager at New Milford Farms, was invited to meet with the Task Force to discuss commercial food waste composting and how that might be relevant to school cafeterias. He showed a video explaining the curbside food waste collection and composting

process used in Plano, TX for grocery stores, restaurants, school cafeterias, etc. Mr. Hirschman said NM Farms will work with customers to educate them about what to put into an organics bin and what not. He also showed some photos of the process that takes place at NM Farms. Pat Caruso, a local hauler who is interested in further involvement with the collection of organics, said there are three primary problems with a viable food waste collection system in the region. (1) Training employees at food waste generators to properly separate compostable waste from waste that is not. (2) The need for water tight trucks, which most haulers do not have and which are expensive. (3) And, to be economically feasible for haulers, there must be a large volume generator or a large number of customers concentrated in one area that makes transport up Route 7 to New Milford feasible. B. Germinaro noted that the process would add at least one step, daily washing of containers, to the school custodians' job. In Bethel, he felt the Health Department would require that the organic waste containers be hauled on a daily basis, thus, possibly increasing collection costs. P. Caruso said that the inside of automated carts to be used for organic or food waste collection should be smooth and have no bars. C. Reedy suggested it would be great if one school system or school building with a particular passion to try new things could do a pilot cafeteria food waste collection and composting program to determine how easy it is, what works and what doesn't and help get all the bugs out before other towns and schools try.

Report to HRRRA in January 2008

R. Byrnes and P. Brown volunteered to represent the Task Force and make a short presentation on the work of the Task Force to date at the January 18, 2008 HRRRA meeting.

Goals for 2008

Members were reminded to bring three concrete measurable goals for 2008 from each municipality and school system to the December Task Force meeting.

Issues from Members

- D. Seeger has a contact who will provide free dumpsters for metal recycling. He will e-mail the contact information to Task Force members.
- P. Brown passed out information on the trailer located in the Brookfield Town Hall parking lot that will serve as the regional collection point for Give2TheTroops Holiday Collection Drive from November 5 – 21. Items collected will be sent to the military serving overseas at Christmas. The list of items needed can be found at www.Give2TheTroops.org and additional information on the collection obtained from Operations-HR@brookfield.org.

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at noon.