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**Regional Recycling Task Force Meeting
Thursday, January 7, 2016, 10:30 a.m.
Room 209, Brookfield Town Hall**

MINUTES

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:37 a.m. Those present included, J. Hanson (RE), R. Byrnes (SH), S. Von Holt (NM), A. Miles (NE), E. Rossini (RI), S. Conn (BK), M. Flanagan (BE), C. Praissman (BK), K. LeJava (BK), P. Oberg (AAW), Molly McGeehin Ridgefield RACE, Tiffany Carlson HRRR Recycling Educator, Justin Madden HRRR Billboard Contest Intern, J. Iannucci and C. Reedy (HRRR). There was no one on the phone for the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by S. Von Holt, second by M. Flanagan, to approve the minutes of December 3, 2015, as presented. **Vote:** All in favor except for R. Byrnes who abstained.

2016 Municipal/School Recycling Goals

- A. Miles submitted Newtown's goals for 2016 which included;
 - Expand the transfer station drop off organics recycling program to 400 households.
 - Improve recycling education at the transfer station and enforcement by attendants.
 - Strong effort to educate employees and make them aware of recycling opportunities available in town buildings.
- New Milford and Sherman will both provide their recycling goals at the February meeting.

Organics Programs Updates

J. Iannucci explained that the organics programs in Newtown and Ridgefield cost \$45-\$55/T to tip at New England Compost in Danbury, plus \$125 a pull to transport and an extra contamination fee based on the quality of the load. The program is free to Newtown residents who have a transfer station pass. In Ridgefield residents pay \$3 to tip their first container at the Recycling Center and \$1.50 per additional containers. The Town hopes to eventually cover the cost of the program with those fees, but so far there are not enough participants to do so.

Billboard Contest

J. Iannucci introduced Justin Madden, a student intern from NVCC, interested in environmental pursuits, who will be the primary point of contact for local coordinators for this year's billboard contest. Justin's goal is to increase participation over the 2,046 students who participated last year. Justin may be reached at billboard@hrra.org. There are lots of templates left at the HRRR office for those towns that still need them. HRRR will be running recycling education ads in most of the newspapers in the region in late January and will include information and the contact for the billboard contest.

HRRRA Recycling Educator

J. Iannucci introduced Tiffany Carlson, a contractor now working for HRRRA, to set up and provide the school recycling program aimed at third grade students throughout the region. Tiffany said she had always been involved in environmental issues and the schools, mostly through the PTA, and this position seemed like a natural fit to transition back into the work force. To invite Tiffany to your schools, you can contact her at education@hrrra.org.

Possible Fieldtrip

If interested the RRTF has been invited by Dan Martin to visit Novamont in Shelton, CT, the company that makes the polymer in the BioBags compostable bags used in the regional organics programs. Members were interested in touring the company sometime in April. J. Iannucci will send out a Doodle poll to determine a time when the most members can go. C. Praissman asked to visit a worm farm.

CT DEEP Grant Applications

J. Iannucci reminded members again that there are three types of grants available from DEEP for recycling - the Rewards grant (due February 1st) for recycling initiatives already implemented, the Unit Based Pricing implementation grants, and the waste reduction grants which may be submitted at any time until the funding runs out. The applications must be signed by the municipal CEO and are reimbursement grants, meaning that the Town/City/School must lay out the funds first and get reimbursed by the State. Schools can apply but the application must come through the Town and also be signed by the Superintendent. To date in the region Bridgewater received \$3,000 under the Rewards program and Ridgefield \$13,000 for a Waste Reduction grant to start its organics program. Municipalities wishing to submit a grant can send their draft applications to Cheryl or Jen for review and to receive some helpful tips they have gleaned from talking to the folks at DEEP and looking at the applications awarded and those turned down.

Items to be Raised by Members

- J. Iannucci passed out information from the [DEEP website](#) about book recycling opportunities since Park City Green is no longer accepting books for reuse/recycling.
- Municipalities not currently participating in the [Bay State Textiles](#) Recycling program were encouraged to sign up.
- J. Hanson reported that a town's liability from the costs of contamination caused by PCB-laced waste oil dropped off at the local transfer station may be limited if the town has vandalism insurance for the transfer station. Middlebury only had to pay \$1,500 of a cost of \$53,000 for such an incident because the rest was covered by its vandalism insurance.

Adjournment

Without objection the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Minutes taken by Cheryl Reedy, HRRRA Assistant Director.