



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 Meeting
Thursday, May 5, 2016, 10:30 a.m.
Room 209, Brookfield Town Hall
100 Pocono Rd, Brookfield, CT 06804

MINUTES

In Attendance

J. Iannucci called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m. and members introduced themselves. On the phone were E. Rossini (RI), T. Carlson (HRRRA Educator) and C. Manus (KE). In attendance were J. Hanson (RE), R. Byrnes (SH), S. Von Holt (NM), A. Miles (NE), D. DeMuth (BE), S. Conn (BK), M. Flanagan (BE), C. Praissman (BK), K. LeJava (BK), R. Bingham (WB), P. Oberg (AAW), K. VALLERA (AAW), and C. Reedy and J. Iannucci (HRRRA).

Approval of Minutes

Motion by S. Conn, second by S. Von Holt, to approve the minutes of March 10, 2016 and March 31, 2016 as presented. **Vote:** All in favor.

TREX Contest Results

Huckleberry Hill Elementary School in Brookfield was the winner of the TREX contest in the region this year, collected 1100 pounds of plastic film, approximately 2 pounds per pupil. They will receive a TREX bench for their efforts. Other regional participations included Burnham School in Bridgewater collecting 70 pounds or 1 pound per student during the contest; the Ridgefield Boys and Girls Club collecting 300 pounds total or 1 1/2 pounds per student; and Farmingville School in Ridgefield which collected 148 pounds or 1/2 pound per student. C. Praissmann asked how to continue the program now that the contest has ended in order to keep parents recycling plastic film. J. Iannucci recommended she speak with K. Vallera from All American Waste which has offered to pilot plastic film recycling collection with a school in the HRRRA region.

WRAP Campaign

J. Iannucci updated members on the statewide WRAP campaign that she is working on with others from the state and the American Chemistry Council. That campaign should be ready to present by at least the October RRTF meeting. In this region there is opportunity to collect boat wrap in the spring to help improve municipal recycling rates. K. Vallera spoke of his experience in collecting boat wrap from marinas near the sound. The wrap must be clean and dry with all zippers and snaps cut out and other contaminants not mixed up with the wrap. The key is getting recycling education information to marina owners, because recycling the wrap can save them disposal fees.

Organics Update

The Bridgewater program is now a drop off program at the town garage and residents are using it. Newtown gave out compost to participants and has increased to 254 households, signing up new participants during Earth Day festivities. Ridgefield also gave out compost and still has some left.

CMMS Update

J. Iannucci testified on behalf of HRRRA and its member municipalities at the DEEP public hearing in April. The draft CMMS will be finalized by July 1st and a public informational meeting held at DEEP during July to go over the final version. All comments received on the plan will receive a written response from DEEP.

New HRRRA Website

J. Iannucci gave a demonstration of the new HRRRA website which she developed and showed members how to find the information on the new website they are used to finding on the old one. Members were reminded to try to link their recycling/transfer station page to the HRRRA website and to notify HRRRA if their municipal website links change. RRTF members oohed and aaahed over the clean, modern looking new website with its beautiful photographs of recycling and solid waste.

Legislative Update

All the bills that HRRRA was following through the session died without passing including battery EPR, tire EPR, packaging EPR, plastic bags made with recycled content, host community fees for mattress recycling facilities and a non-refundable bottle fee. Many of these bills will likely be back next year with some revisions. DEEP will hold a public workshop on Tuesday, May 24, 2016, 9:00 a.m. to Noon at their offices in Hartford on packaging EPR. It will be a primer for those who want to learn more about packaging EPR and how it may affect their business or municipality if adopted. Experts from across the country, from Canada and from Europe will be in attendance to provide information and lead the discussion. All are welcome to attend.

Required Transfer Station Signage

J. Iannucci showed photos of signage from the New Fairfield transfer station advising users that e-waste was not to be removed from the facility. Such signage is a requirement of the general permit most municipal transfer stations operate under. There was an attempted theft of e-waste at the Newtown transfer station in the past month. It is critical that residents know that their personal information and data are well protected and will be safely destroyed if they use local drop off centers to recycle their e-waste.

New E-waste Contract

NewTech Recycling's proposal to remain as the region's e-waste recycling vendor has been approved by HRRRA and was unanimously supported by all the transfer station operators in the region. Kent will continue to use Take 2 as it has been doing for the past two years. Under the new NewTech contract that starts on July 1st, municipal rebates for CEDs will increase from 3 cents per pound to 5.5 cents per pound. Each municipality has to sign a municipal adoption agreement prior to July 1st to become part of the regional contract.

Items to be Raised by Members

- M. Flanagan asked about the future of HRRRA, and J. Iannucci advised that all municipalities except Danbury have publicly stated their intention to remain as a part of HRRRA and working as a region after 2019.
- 19 CT municipalities applied for the Recycling Awards Grants at DEEP and 10 municipalities received awards, half of them HRRRA municipalities. Those awarded grants were Brookfield \$7,000, Kent \$2,700, New Fairfield \$7,000, Redding \$5,000, and Ridgefield \$6,000. In addition, HRRRA received a \$20,000 regional grant for home composting and school recycling bins. Those

who won can apply again if they increase their score. One of the easier ways to do that is by passing a new recycling ordinance in town. HERRA staff will try to get a model ordinance from DEEP and pass on to the towns for consideration.

- J. Iannucci thanked Novamont for last month's "awesome" field trip.
- C. Reedy thanked the members of the RRTF of all their help again this year with the annual billboard contest.

Adjournment

Without objection the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:45 a.m.

Minutes taken by Cheryl Reedy, HERRA Assistant Director.