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Regional Recycling Task Force Meeting
Thursday, December 3, 2015, 10:30 a.m.
Room 209, Brookfield Town Hall

MINUTES

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:32 a.m. Those present included, J. Hanson (RE), S. Von Holt (NM), A. Miles (NE), D. DeMuth (BE), E. Rossini (RI), S. Conn (BK), M. Flanagan (BE), C. Praissman (BK), K. LeJava (BK), J. Barnell-Drescher (Winters), B. Creighton, K. Vallera and P. Oberg (AAW), and J. Iannucci and C. Reedy (HRRA). There was no one on the phone for the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by D. DeMuth, second by M. Flanagan, to approve the minutes of November 3, 2015, as presented. **Vote:** All in favor except for S. Von Holt and A. Miles who abstained.

2016 Municipal/School Recycling Goals

- E. Rossini reported on Ridgefield's goals. Those met for 2015 include having the Alternative High School participate in the poster contest and getting the organics collection program started at the Recycling Center. Goals for 2016 include gaining participation from Ridgefield Academy for the billboard contest and taking the organics program to curbside collection.
- M. Flanagan reported on Bethel's goals for 2016 including: composting school food and leaves, improving Town Hall recycling and adding a compactor to the transfer station for single stream recycling.
- J. Hanson reported on Redding's goals for 2016 including: collecting organics at the transfer station, improving recycling at the highway department and among town employees, creating a more user friendly Recycling Center, and better publicizing textile recycling.
- S. Conn reported on Brookfield's goals for 2016 including: working with Park and Rec to obtain recycling bins for events, getting recycling bins for Town Hall special events, adding recycling to the "How Do I" section of the Town's website, sustaining improved recycling at the PD, and applying the Recycling Checklist to all town buildings. J. Iannucci noted that grant money is still available through DEEP for permanent public space recycling containers which can sometimes be quite costly.
- C. Praissman reported that she would keep following up with the facilities manager, T. Tibolla, to get the recycling goals for the Brookfield schools for the coming year.

Organics Programs Updates

- The Bridgewater organics program is still a curbside collection program in cooperation with AAW as DEEP has yet to approve the Town's General Permit so that the drop off program can start at the town garage.

- A. Miles reported that the Newtown program kicked off on November 14th with 205 residents signing up and 132 picking up bins. There have been some contamination issues at the start. She is using an e-mail system to contact participants and alert them to how to improve their drop offs.
- E. Rossini reported that the Ridgefield program also kicked off on November 14th with at least 130 residents signed up and 66 bins distributed. Tying bag tops is still a problem with the drop offs.
- J. Hanson reported that J. Iannucci met with him and the Redding First Selectman and made a presentation on the benefits of an organics collection program at the Recycling Center. He said it is very possible Redding will join the party in the region and start organics collection at its transfer station in 2016.

Billboard Contest

J. Iannucci reported that 12,000 templates have been printed and are available for pickup by town coordinators at the HRRA office after the meeting. An intern from either NVCC or WCSU will assist with the billboard contest this year. C. Reedy reminded everyone of the importance of the participants filling out their name, address, contact information on the templates or else they would be ineligible to be a regional winner. J. Iannucci also noted that the instructions this year remind participants not to use brand names in order to be eligible to be a regional winner.

TREX Contest

Towns or schools wishing to sign up for this year's TREX contest can still do so at the following link: [Trex School Program](#). Collection boxes for the program are available at the HRRA office. J. Iannucci prepared a thermostat poster for HHES in Brookfield so the students could easily observe weekly progress. Big Y and Kohl's are both accepting the plastic bags this year. TREX has contributed \$500 to the HRRA billboard contest this year for the first time.

Bedbug Training

Training on how to identify and prevent the spread of bedbugs for transfer station employees, health department employees, haulers, public works employees, housing authority staff and any other municipal or private sector personnel who handle mattresses will be held locally on December 10th at the Brookfield Town Hall from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. RRTF members were asked to please widely disseminate information about the training.

Items to be Raised by Members

- J. Iannucci reported that HRRA will be contracting with a Recycling Educator in January to handle school recycling programs in the region through June 2016 and perhaps beyond if funding permits.
- J. Hanson reported that Park City Green is not taking books anymore and that they don't return phone calls.

Adjournment

Without objection the meeting was adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

Minutes taken by Cheryl Reedy, HRRA Assistant Director.