



H·R·R·A
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**Regional Recycling Task Force Meeting
Thursday, January 1, 2017, 10:30 a.m.
HRRRA Office
Upper Level, Old Town Hall
162 Whisconier Road, Brookfield, CT 06804**

MINUTES

In Attendance

J. Iannucci called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m. In attendance were J. Hanson (RE), C. Loudon (NF), 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), K. Valleria (AAW), B. Canino (WB), T. O'Brien (DA), T. Ciatto (WB) and J. Heaton-Jones, T. Carlson and C. Reedy (HRRRA).

Approval of Minutes

Motion by E. Rossini, second by S. Von Holt, to approve the minutes of December 1, 2016 as presented.

Vote: All in favor.

WRAP Champions

There is a difference between signing up to be a WRAP Champion and collecting plastic film at your local transfer station. You can do one without the other. J. Heaton-Jones wants all HRRRA member towns to sign up to become WRAP Champions. Several towns that did try to sign up do not yet show up on the website. If there are problems with the sign up, please let J. Heaton-Jones know so that she can work through the technology issues with the WRAP Council. C. Praissman asked if schools can sign up, and the answer was yes. She noted that the Monroe post office collects 200 pounds a week of plastic wrap.

HRRRA members authorized the Authority to pay the \$100 to purchase the Rack & Pack kits for plastic film collection for all municipalities that want them. To date the requesting towns are Bethel, Brookfield, Kent, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, Redding and possibly Danbury. The kits will be ordered next week.

There was discussion about collecting plastic wrap from boat storage at the end of the winter from marinas. They would need a dedicated dumpster for the wrap, be willing to keep it clean and cut out zippers, snaps, windows, etc. and trim 2-3 feet up from the ground (which gets dirty).

TREX Contest

It is not too late to reach out to the schools in your municipality about participating in this year's TREX contest. Huckleberry Hill and Center Schools in Brookfield will be participating again this year as well as the Boys and Girls Club in Ridgefield.

Grants Update

Last year's Recycling Rewards grant funds through DEEP are finally on their way to Brookfield, Kent, New Fairfield and Ridgefield after those municipalities resubmit their paperwork. The Rewards grant program is now open again with a due date of February 1, 2017. The Authority approved HRRAs' legal counsel drafting a model recycling ordinance for all municipalities to use to update their local ordinances to comply with the CMMS goals and to improve the points awarded in future grants.

DEEP CMMS Compliance

At the December HRRAs meeting members asked that the RRTF representatives from their towns determine how each municipality was doing regarding recycling and compliance with the law and what needed to be done over the next couple of years to improve and hit the CMMS benchmarks. HRRAs' Municipal Recycling Checklist will be updated to include all the requirements now included in state law so members can use that as a self-evaluation tool. The goal is to have all evaluations done by the April 27th HRRAs meeting so they can be presented there. C. Reedy noted that it was the original purpose of the RRTF to help member municipalities come into compliance with state recycling laws so they could set the proper example for the rest of the community. It is a bit discouraging that 25 years after passage of the first state recycling law, that not all HRRAs municipalities follow that law.

There was considerable discussion from RRTF members about the road blocks they face, their frustration and the lack of support they feel they receive in their towns for recycling compliance. From basics like providing a recycling bin in every office, to ensuring that custodial staff properly empties those bins, to more recent requirements like recycling available next to every MSW container in public spaces, there are still considerable shortcomings in every municipality in the region in meeting those requirements in all municipal buildings and facilities. K. Vallera suggested that if municipalities knew that the fine was \$25,000 per day for failure to comply with an NOV, perhaps it would be clearer why it was in the municipality's best interest to comply. RRTF members also noted that they needed support from the top to do their jobs, i.e. a cover letter from the First Selectman/Mayor or Superintendent, so that other town employees know that recycling compliance is an important goal to the municipality.

2017 Goal Setting and Evaluation

- **New Milford** – S. Von Holt reported the following goals for 2017:
 - Have a representative of the school system attend RRTF meetings.
 - Start an organics composting program at the Recycling Center using Earth Tub technology
 - Introduce plastic wrap collecting at the Recycling Center.
 - Help promote HHW Day product stewardship.
- **Danbury** – T. O'Brien reported the following goals for 2017:
 - Create a steering committee for recycling in the City including herself, the project manager and representatives from public works.
 - Begin collection of plastic wrap at the Winters Bros. Mom & Pop.
 - Add recycling bins to our public buildings and follow up on proper practices throughout all buildings and public schools.
 - Check on proper installation of recycle bins at all public parks and city streets.
- **Brookfield** – S. Conn updated the following goals for 2017:
 - Town to become a Wrap Champion.
 - Continue work on recycling section of town website.
 - Update town recycling ordinance.
 - Continue recycling education and enforcement in town buildings. Run recycling seminars for town and school buildings.
 - Work with BOE to capitalize on recycling opportunities at the school.
 - Collect plastic wrap at the Town Hall.
 - Work with HRRAs and the First Selectman on a possible composting program for the Town.

- **Bethel Public Schools** – D. Demuth sent in a list of goals achieved for 2015-16:
 - Participated in annual recycling poster contest.
 - Continued collection of bottles and cans in all school cafeterias.
 - Continued classroom and office paper recycling.
 - Continued recycling equipment through NewTech Recycling.
 - Continued use of paper trays at High School and Middle School.
 - Standardized Town and School recycling goals for sports fields.
 - Completed self-evaluation checklist with the following practices in place at BOE offices:
 - Monthly recycling of plastics, bottles & cans;
 - Monthly shredding of confidential documents;
 - Cardboard and paper recycling;
 - Purchase of green products for the office.
 - Continued to participate in cartridge recycling program.
 - Contributed recycling news and information to the Superintendent’s newsletter.

2017 Billboard Contest Update

The templates are not quite ready for distribution yet, but should be available by the January 12th. Work with T. Carlson to arrange template pick up and on other issues for this year’s contest. Her e-mail contact is Education@hrra.org. This will be the 10th anniversary of the contest, so we hope to have record participation this year.

Items to be Raised by Members

- J. Heaton-Jones reported that there will be a program for municipalities on Public Space Recycling at DEEP on Tuesday, January 24th in the afternoon. Any RRTF members wanting to attend can contact HRRRA for carpooling if desired. The program will also be available by WebEx.
- Product Stewardship Institute will hold a webinar free to all municipalities on January 19th, 2-3:30 pm on The Power of Local Governments: Product Stewardship Councils. Links to registration information will be sent out by HRRRA.
- NERC (Northeast Recycling Council) is applying for a CT Recycling Innovation grant for textile recycling and partnering with HRRRA.

Adjournment

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:50 a.m.

Minutes taken by Cheryl Reedy, HRRRA Assistant Director.