



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

**MINUTES**

**In Attendance**

J. Heaton-Jones called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. In attendance were 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), B. Canino (WB), T. O'Brien (DA), D. Demuth (BE), A. Dinho (BW) and J. Heaton-Jones, T. Carlson and C. Reedy (HRRRA). E. Rossini (RI) participated by phone. Members introduced themselves to and welcome Alan Dinho, a new participant from Bridgewater.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion** by S. Von Holt, second by J. Hanson, to approve the minutes of January 5, 2017 as presented. **Vote:** All in favor except for R. Byrnes and D. Demuth who abstained.

**WRAP Champions**

The Rack 'n Pak containers for local transfer stations to use in collecting plastic film are in and should be taken from the HRRRA office at the end of the meeting. Transfer station operators were asked to not start collecting plastic film until they had everything set up with their hauler about how to transport the material to Winters Bros. or All American Waste. B. Canino reported on a conference call he and T. O'Brien had with Tanya Randell from the Wrap Program. When the bags from the Rack 'n Pak containers are full they will weigh about 40 pounds and measure about 2 feet by 4 feet. The collection container needs to be under a roof or a cover to keep the material dry. Grocery stores have storage space for the full bags but local transfer stations may not. Based on that Danbury's program will encourage Danbury residents to take back their film to local grocery stores and participating retailers so that the Mom & Pop doesn't get flooded with new customers. The Mom & Pop will accept film from its usual customers. According to Ben, the Wrap Program would like to start a pilot with one busy and one not so busy transfer station to see how the program works and roll it out slowly. Sherman, Redding and New Milford all expressed interest in being part of the original pilot program. Back to retail should be the main focus of collection in all towns. S. Von Holt asked for flyers for residents explaining the program.

**DEEP CMMS Compliance**

At the December HRRRA 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. C. Reedy went through the updated Municipal Recycling Self-Evaluation Checklist and noted that the complete and signed checklists need to be returned to HRRRA no later than April 1<sup>st</sup>. HRRRA will send an e-mail to the chief elected official

of each municipality asking for their support of the RRTF member doing the checklist in each town. Anyone who has problems getting cooperation should contact HRRRA for assistance.

### **2017 Billboard Contest Update**

T. Carlson expressed her appreciation for all the local coordinators and noted that every town now has a town wide coordinator. There are 13,500 templates now distributed. T. Carlson has been able to leverage her relationships developed with third grade teachers doing recycling education programs to increase participation. In some towns, the Superintendent has to approve anything that goes into the schools. Also, she is particularly interested in anyone with contacts into the home schooling networks in the region.

Contest dates are to be strictly followed. Local coordinators must let Tiffany know the number of ribbons they will need for local awards in February. The March RRTF meeting is the **second** Thursday in March rather than the regular first Thursday in order to do the regional judging. That meeting will be held in the Brookfield Town Hall second floor conference room. Members were asked to remind their local chief elected officials that the regional awards ceremony will be held on April 26<sup>th</sup>. It is important that the local CEO be in attendance. T. Carlson also gave a shout out and thank you to T. O'Brien for her efforts in her first year with the contest in Danbury. Taylor created and sent out a press release to increase participation.

### **Items to be Raised by Members**

- S. Von Holt reported that a Boy Scout compass was dropped off at the New Milford recycling center which ended up costing the town \$10,000 for disposal since it contained a small amount of radioactive material and set off the wand alarm at Winters Bros. when All American took the container across the scale. Due to staff cuts at DEEP, no one was able to come out. All American was prevented from tipping the load and had to take it back to their yard, go through it, find the offending item and then hire a company out of Bridgeport to properly dispose of the material. The Town was charged for all of that. P. Oberg asked if the wands at Winters Bros. are calibrated on a regular basis like the scale is. B. Canino suggested products with small amounts of radioactivity should be in a product stewardship program. This has happened before in the region and elsewhere in the state. Smoke detectors as well as kitty litter or even adult diapers from chemo patients have set off the alarms at transfer stations or the burn plants. There needs to be a statewide solution to the problem and a newspaper article is in order to alert the public to what it cost New Milford.
- C. Reedy reported that HRRRA had followed up with Redding's question from last month about DEEP requiring a new site plan sealed by a PE in order to approve the town's plans to accept food waste. They received clarification from DEEP saying that as long as no, new permanent structures or design changes are made to the transfer station there is no need to submit a revised site plan sealed by a PE. The process for informing DEEP of new materials to be accepted at local transfer stations operating under the State's municipal general permit will be sent out to all chief elected officials in the region.
- J. Heaton-Jones reported that DEEP is now doing a pilot with some towns mixing food waste with leaves. That is a possible option for local municipalities if the pilot works out well. C. Reedy reminded members, however, that their leaf composting would need to be in compliance with their leaf composting permits in order to participate in a future program.
- The Public Space Recycling program at DEEP was rescheduled for Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. It is a program especially designed for municipalities to help them comply with the requirements of the CMMS and existing law. Anyone can attend in person or by Webinex. J. Heaton-Jones will send out information and a link to the Webinex to members.
- J. Heaton-Jones passed out information about the Green Circle Award and asked if any RRTF member would nominate HRRRA for the award for its advocacy on behalf of and initiatives on residential food waste collection programs in five towns in the region.

### **Adjournment**

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:34 a.m.

*Minutes taken by Cheryl Reedy, HRRRA Assistant Director.*