



H·R·R·A
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Regional Recycling Task Force Meeting
Thursday, October 5, 2017, 10:30 a.m.
HRRRA Office
162 Whisconier Rd, Brookfield, CT 06804

MINUTES

In Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. In attendance were S. Von Holt (NM), A. Miles (NE), D. DeMuth (BE BOE), R. Byrnes (SH), C. Loudon (NF), B. Hanna (NM), C. Praissman and K. LeJava (BK Schools), J. Barnell (Winters Bros), P. Oberg (AAW), P. Palmer (RE), A. Dinho (BW), K. Kerlin (RI), J. Kearns, E. Rossini (RI) and J. Heaton-Jones, T. Carlson and R. Bennett (HRRRA).

Minutes

Motion by S. Von Holt, second by A. Miles, to approve the minutes of June 1, 2017 as presented. **Vote:** All in favor.

Acceptable Items at Municipal Drop-off

J. Heaton-Jones went through the chart for each of the town's accepted and non-accepted items at their transfer stations and asked if there were any changes to be made.

- C. Loudon reported that New Fairfield does accept ammunition and firearms. There is a required form that needs to be submitted to the state police.
- J. Heaton-Jones discussed the collection of appliances containing freon. B. Hanna noted that New Milford gets a rebate for these items through Rapid Repo and B. Hanna will send out the contact information.
- For book disposal, New Fairfield donates books in good condition to the library and some towns offer them at a free table. J. Barnell said that Winters Bros. accepts paperback books and pages out of hard cover books for recycling. Hard cover books should be disposed of in MSW.
- Bethel accepts cooking oil and HRRRA will reach out for contact information and send out to RRTF members.
- Newtech does accept CFL's town's can contact Newtech for a box. If a town has a school, library or other municipal building that needs to dispose of CFL's, contact Joel at Newtech for a separate collection.
- HRRRA will send out a list of vendors for the commercial disposal of CFL's.
- A. Dinho asked why it is not allowed to mix diesel oil in with the oil collection. J. Heaton-Jones said that collection of diesel oil is not allowed under their MTSGP and that residents should take it to HHW collection.
- J. Heaton-Jones asked how mattress collections were going. C. Loudon said his container leaked and J. Barnell said she will pass along that information and she will ask Bud to come to the next RRTF meeting. A. Miles said she is not getting data from MRC. J. Heaton-Jones asked RRTF

members to send any concerns to J. Heaton-Jones to compile and send to the new contact person at MRC. The new MRC representative will be invited to the next RRTF meeting.

- Correction to chart: Ridgefield does take paint.
- J. Heaton-Jones asked members if their transfer stations had a tool to depressurize propane tanks. Towns can depressurize tanks and then put them in scrap metal. C. Loudon has a tool that he purchased at Home Depot. Ridgefield uses Paraco for propane tank collection. J. Heaton-Jones said that Mitchell Oil collects 20-pound tanks at HHW events, they do not charge.
- P. Palmer will send information to J. Heaton-Jones with the contact information for the company that Redding uses for oil testing and pick-up charges.
- J. Heaton-Jones recently sent out an email to haulers that the recycling tip fee will likely increasing due to falling recycling commodity prices and that tip fees. J. Heaton-Jones asked why some towns do not offer swap shops at their transfer stations and reminded members that this is one of the ways towns can reach waste reduction goals. There is a state innovative grant available that can help with funding swap swaps. Towns use Winters Bros. and Plan B Tires to dispose of tires. A. Miles reported that Newtown pays \$1,000/trailer to dispose of tires. J. Heaton-Jones provided other yard waste company options: Ferris Mulch, Advanced and New Milford Farms. J. Heaton-Jones reported that New Milford Farms is no longer accepting food scraps from residents. J. Heaton-Jones is working with DEEP on this issue and may take a tour of the facility soon.

Recycling Coordinators Responsibilities

J. Heaton-Jones went through the list of DEEP recycling coordinator contacts. J. Heaton-Jones asked if any contacts need to be changed and emphasized that it's important to have a knowledgeable person that communicates with town officials. J. Heaton-Jones said she thinks all the RRTF members should be an alternate contact. E. Rossini asked if this has been mentioned at HRRRA Board meetings and J. Heaton-Jones replied that it was brought up. J. Heaton-Jones said that it's important for every town to provide accurate information on the Annual Municipal Recycling Reports.

Newtown Organics/Food Scrap Update

A. Miles reported that Newtown's program is moving along slow but steady and they will be doing more outdoor promotion now that the weather is cooler. J. Heaton-Jones told members that Quantum BioPower in Southington is looking to coordinate with a hauler to take food scraps from the HRRRA region to their facility. Quantum BioPower is an aerobic digestion facility. One of the benefits of their facility is that it can handle contamination such as the compostable bags used in the HRRRA drop-off programs. The downside is the distance. Towns also need to decide if they want the organic material to be recycled into compost or to be processed at an AD facility. J. Heaton-Jones informed the members about the upcoming HRRRA backyard composting workshop series planned for this fall. The first one is Oct. 21st at Sunny Meadow Farm in Bridgewater from 10-12 pm. She will send an email to members to ask them if they would like to hold a workshop, and, if so, to provide a location. Workshops are free, 25 people maximum, offered to all residents of HRRRA towns, sign-ups will be on the HRRRA website and compost bins will be sold at reduced price of \$40.

What's In What's Out Campaign

J. Heaton-Jones reminded members to refer to the RecycleCT website for the universal list of recyclable items accepted in the Mix Recycling Stream. Recyclables are now referred to as "Mixed Recycling" not "Single Stream." An official launch for the program has been delayed until November. RecycleCT will be providing flyers, possibly customized and bulk printed for municipalities. HRRRA will work on updating its recycling flyer and WOW guide. J. Heaton-Jones asked that the members give her feedback on the media material. R. Byrnes and P. Palmer have received phone calls from Ryan, an intern at

DEEP, asking for input on the website's information and layout. P. Palmer asked if the What's In/Out flyers should be given out at the transfer station. J. Heaton-Jones replied that it is P. Palmer's choice to do so. Towns should link the RecycleCT site to the town website as a reference for residents. A. Dinho asked why shredded paper is no longer allowed in the recycling. J. Barnell said shredded paper flies around the facility and jams the machines. J. Heaton-Jones noted that the shredding companies should be registered and permitted and she is working on their compliance. J. Heaton-Jones asked the members to please send her the names of the companies they use for shredding events, upcoming scheduled dates and whether they think more events should be scheduled.

Call2Recycle Training

J. Heaton-Jones reminded members that if towns are collecting batteries they will need to take the online training. R. Bennett will re-send the link for the training.

Bay State Textiles Update

J. Heaton-Jones asked for input from members about their Bay State Textiles program. E. Rossini expressed her concern and issues with Bay State not reporting accurate weights, not providing signage for the bin and textiles are not getting picked up on time. C. Praissman said she also did not receive accurate weight reporting. J. Heaton-Jones asked that members report any problems to HRRRA. J. Heaton-Jones asked the members to send their contracts (if any) they have with Bay State Textiles. J. Heaton-Jones also commented that other options may include selecting a new vendor, making changes to the existing contracts or making it a regional program rather than with the individual towns. J. Heaton-Jones also reminded members that textile diversion is a good way for towns to meet waste reduction goals and that RRTF members should be sure to advertise the program to the residents.

HRRRA Public Education Outreach

J. Heaton-Jones reminded members to let HRRRA know if they would like T. Carlson to come to their schools for the education program because it is a program that inspires students and staff. J. Heaton-Jones shared there will be recycling bins available for schools that host a Recycling Educational Program with HRRRA. Schools will be required to fill out an online application as part of the requirement to be eligible for the bins. The purpose of the application is to show the school administration's commitment to recycling. Bins will be stored at the HRRRA office. J. Heaton-Jones requested that members notify her if they have trouble getting schools on board with scheduling programs or if they have any ideas for increasing recycling in the schools. J. Heaton-Jones said that schools should be recycling their milk cartons in the cafeteria and that T. Carlson will be promoting this in her school programs. J. Heaton-Jones reported that the billboard contest will be handled internally by HRRRA, not by T. Carlson.

Items Raised by Members

E. Rossini said that Thursdays are not good days for RRTF meetings. Jen Heaton-Jones will send out a poll asking members what are the best days to meet going forward.

Adjournment

Motion by J. Heaton-Jones, **second** by S. Von Holt, the meeting was adjourned at 12:12 pm. **Vote:** all in favor of adjournment.

Minutes taken by Robin Bennett, HRRRA Administrative Assistant.