



**Regional Recycling Task Force Meeting
Thursday, February 11, 2021, 10:00 a.m.
Via Zoom**

MINUTES

In Attendance

J. Baum called the meeting to order via zoom at 10:03 a.m. In attendance were A. Freitas (BE), D. Demuth (BE), A. Dinho (BW), B. Nakano (BK), A. Miles (NE), P. Palmer (RE), R. Byrnes (SH), T. Socha (WE/Sustainability), M. Aitkenhead (WE/Sustainability), B. Creighton (All American Waste), A. Regan (All American Waste), J. Heaton-Jones, HRRRA, and J. Baum, HRRRA.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by A. Miles, second by P. Palmer, to approve the minutes of January 14, 2021 as presented.

Annual Recycling Billboard Contest – update/status

The artwork submission deadlines have come to an end for all towns and local judging is in progress. The important dates to note are:

- Friday, February 26th - Local judging must be complete.
- Monday, March 8th - Artwork from local first place winners submitted to HRRRA by 3:00pm.
- Thursday, March 11th - Regional judging will take place during the RRTF meeting.
- Wednesday, April 21 - Evening Awards Ceremony via Zoom.

HRRRA will supply the ribbons for local winners. J. Baum will touch base with the coordinators to confirm amounts.

Glass Recycling Update

Brookfield, Danbury, Sherman, and Weston have received their containers and can recycle glass separately. The glass container in Brookfield is located on Pocono Road, in between the firehouse and Town Hall. The container in Danbury is located at the Mom & Pop. The Weston glass container is located at the Weston Transfer Station and the Sherman container is located at Sherman Public Works. Kent is scheduled to receive a container next. New Milford is presently on hold. New Milford requires a container stop put in place.

The public education campaign will be launched after New Milford receives a container.

T. Socha expressed concerns about the glass container affecting the Weston High School Green Team redeemable collection. T. Socha requested that HRRRA note that redeemable glass should go to the Green Team container.

J. Heaton-Jones acknowledged that HRRRA will consider the Weston Green Team. Other transfer stations in the HRRRA region run similar programs successfully.

In addition, the HRRRA glass study showed 50% of glass consisted of wine bottles. The glass program is not intended, nor expected, to deter from fund-raising programs.

J. Baum shared glass language that can be shared with residents. J. Baum will email the language to the members.

J. Heaton-Jones shared slides demonstrating the carbon footprint of transporting glass to the MRF. The slides exhibited the carbon footprint reduction with the HRRRA glass program.

J. Baum asked members how their respective towns will promote the glass program.

- P. Palmer stated Redding will begin working on a plan.
- R. Byrnes stated Sherman will run an article in the local paper that is distributed in New Fairfield and Sherman.
- A. Miles shared that when Newtown launched the glass program, she attended every town event and talked with residents.

Action Item for Members: Please share with J. Baum how your respective municipality will promote the glass program.

Fuel Cylinder Legislation

The Public hearing for the bill on cylinders was February 10, 2021. It is not too late to submit written testimony in support.

Household Hazardous Waste Events

The 2021 Household Hazardous Waste Event (HHW) schedule has been posted to the HRRR website.

The first event is April 3, 2021 in Danbury at the Public Works Facility. The next event will be on May 8, 2021 at the Newtown Public Works facility.

J. Baum will email all members the Household Hazardous Waste event schedule to share with residents.

Action Item for Members: Please reach out to your town website admin and request that the link to our HHW page be added to your town site so that residents have easy access to the information.

Recycling Coordinator Role

Action Item for members: Review the information on CT DEEP website for the recycling coordinator in your municipality and update the incorrect information.

Earth Day and National Battery Day

Earth Day is Thursday, April 22, 2021, and the theme is "Restore Our Earth".

- Bridgewater will host their 2nd Annual Litter Cleanup day
- Weston is planning an online recycling event.

Action Item for Members: Please inform HRRR of Earth Day events in your municipality so HRRR can promote them.

National Battery Day is February 18, 2021 and is a great opportunity to educate the public on how to recycle batteries. Call2Recycle has content available on their website to post to social media.

1st Annual Youth Climate Change Summit

CT DEEP is hosting a free summit for climate change action and engagement for High School Students and their teachers on March 18th-19th, 2021 10:00-2:00pm.

This event will allow students to learn the science and impacts of climate change, as well as ways to engage youth in action planning for civic and community involvement.

Registration deadline is March 12, 2021. Space is limited. Each high school may register a maximum of 10 students and will need to have one or more teacher(s) participating for the two days.

J. Baum will email the information to all members.

Action Item for Members: Please share the details of the Youth Climate Change Summit with your local high school.

Items to be raised by members

J. Heaton-Jones shared that the CT Recycling Coalition will be launching an app that will allow residents to search how to recycle an item in a user-friendly, quick method. The app will be similar to an existing app called “ecomain”.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.