



Regional Recycling Task Force Meeting
Thursday, February 10, 2022, 11:00 a.m.
Via Zoom

MINUTES

In Attendance

J. Baum called the meeting to order via zoom at 11:03 a.m. In attendance were P. Drake (BE), S. Conn (BK), C. Praissman (BK PTO), Lex (BK public), J. Barney (DA), J. Kearns (KE), S. Von Holt (NM), J. Patterson (RX), P. Palmer (RE), P. Roy (RX), T. Thornton (WI/Wilton Go Green), B. Leonard (Oak Ridge), J. Heaton-Jones, HRRRA and J. Baum, HRRRA.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by S. Von Holt, second by J. Patterson to approve minutes of January 13, 2022, as presented.

Vote: All in favor.

Recycling Billboard Contest Update

The contest is underway with two weeks remaining. The entry forms are due on Friday, February 25, 2022. All fourteen HRRRA municipalities are participating in the contest.

The regional judging will take place at the next RRTF meeting on Thursday, March 10th, via zoom.

Municipal Earth Day and Spring Events

J. Baum inquired about Spring and Earth Day waste and recycling events for each municipality.

- J. Patterson announced that the Town of Roxbury is planning an event and finalizing details.
- T. Thornton shared that Wilton Go Green will be hosting their "Zero Waste Faire" event on June 5th.
- P. Palmer stated the Town of Redding will host their "Mount Trashmore" litter clean-up day on April 23rd.
- J. Heaton-Jones shared the Town of Bridgewater will host a litter clean-up day on Saturday, April 23rd.
- B. Leonard shared that Oak Ridge has a shred truck and is available for shred events.
- As events are scheduled, please share them with J. Baum to post on the HRRRA website.

HRRRA Online Trash Talks and Composting Classes

The HRRRA will be offering several online "Composting 101" classes and "What's In, What's Out/Trash Talks" during the Spring. The classes and zoom registration will be posted to the home page of the HRRRA website and shared on the HRRRA Facebook page.

J. Baum will email the information as the classes are scheduled.

Project D.C.C – Westside Middle School Academy

A group of 8th grade students from Westside Middle School Academy contacted the HRRRA for assistance on their global project called "Project D.C.C". The focus of the project is cleaning up litter in Danbury, specifically the Rogers Park area, and increasing recycling in Danbury. In addition, they plan to do some presentations with 5th grade classes in Danbury.

The students placed first place locally and will move on to the global competition.

The HRRRA is assisting the group with the litter cleanup day scheduled for Saturday, March 26th.

O2Compost Grant Program – High Schools and Colleges

O2Compost is kicking off a Micro-bin Grant Program for high schools and colleges throughout the US and Canada. The goal is to work with students to stimulate their creative thinking in regards to recycling and sustainability using the Aerated Static Pile (ASP) Method of Composting.

Sustainable CT Fellowship Program

Sustainable CT is accepting applications for a Fellowship program.

The Sustainable CT Fellowship Program will place qualified fellows across the state's nine Councils of Governments (COGs) to help cities and towns become registered, certified, or recertified with Sustainable CT during the summer of 2022. It is a 12-week program during the summer and is a paid fellowship.

Students must be enrolled in a post-secondary degree program. Students must be either enrolled in a CT college or a permanent resident of CT.

Items to be raised by members

- J. Patterson stated the Town of Roxbury is in the planning stages of developing a program to collect redeemable cans and bottles separately at the transfer station. J. Patterson requested feedback from other towns that have a similar program; specifically, who collects the bottles and cans.
 - J. Heaton-Jones shared that several HRRRA municipalities have similar programs that are run by a committed group of volunteers.
- B. Leonard raised a concern about high contamination rates in recycling among multi-family residences. B. Leonard asked for suggestions on how we can reduce the amount of contamination in recycling.
 - T. Thornton stated the Town of Wilton has as an issue with a high rate of recycling contamination in multi-family homes.
 - J. Heaton-Jones shared that the HRRRA can provide flyers to haulers to distribute to customers. Additionally, if there is a location that is not recycling, an anonymous complaint can be submitted to CT DEEP, or the HRRRA. CT DEEP will investigate the claim.
- P. Palmer requested signs for the Redding Recycling Center stating that anything smaller than 2 inches cannot be recycled.
- J. Heaton-Jones shared a similar sign posted by the Kent Transfer Station.
- J. Patterson requested the sign for the Roxbury Transfer Station.
- Action item for J. Baum to create the requested sign for transfer stations.

Adjournment

Motion by P. Palmer, second by S. Von Holt to adjourn the meeting. **Vote:** All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 am.