



Regional Recycling Task Force Meeting
Thursday, October 12, 2023
10:30 a.m.

Brookfield Town Hall
100 Pocono Road, Brookfield, CT 06804
Room 209

MINUTES

In Attendance

J. Baum called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m. In attendance were K. Hebert (BE), A. Dinho (BW), S. Conn (BK), J. Kearns (KE), A. Miles (NE), P. Silva (RE), T. Carlson (RI), J. Patterson (RX), S. Stauffacher (RX), R. Byrnes (SH), F. Fascitelli (WI), T. Thornton (HRRA), and J. Baum (HRRA).

Approval of Minutes

Motion by A. Dinho, second by P. Silva to approve minutes of September 14, 2023, as presented. **Vote:** All in favor.

Recycling Billboard Contest

T. Thornton shared an update on the 2023-24 Recycling Billboard Contest. The templates have been distributed to all HRRA towns. Artwork needs to be submitted to the local coordinator by November 15th. The local first place winners are due to the HRRA by December 4, 2023.

Assigned Local Municipal Recycling Coordinators

J. Baum shared the assigned local municipal recycling coordinator's posted on the [CT DEEP website](#) and requested each municipality to review the coordinator for their town. If the coordinator listed is not correct, please update the information as directed on the web page.

Annual Municipal Recycling Goals for the 2023-24 Fiscal year

J. Baum announced the annual municipal recycling goals will be emailed to the assigned municipal recycling coordinator. J. Baum will work with each local recycling coordinator to assist as needed in formulating annual recycling goals.

November 15th – America Recycles Day!

J. Baum shared that November 15th is America Recycles Day and encouraged members to take this opportunity to share recycling education information.

TREX Recycling Challenge

TREX launched a new community recycling challenge. The recycling challenge is open to K-12 schools, civic organizations, houses of worship, and university organizations. The challenge is to commit to a 12-month time frame and collect more than 1,000 pounds of plastic film within the time frame. If the

challenge is successful, TREX will award a TREX furniture bench to the organization. Interested organizations can enroll in the contest on the [TREX website](#).

Public Education

J. Baum shared recycling education reminders on the following materials:

- a. Lawn signs do not go in the mixed recycling stream. The plastic sign can be repurposed or go in municipal solid waste and the metal frame can go to scrap metal at the local transfer station.
- b. Pumpkin Recycling – Pumpkins are compostable and a food source for animals. Consider hosting community events such as a pumpkin smash or community collection for composting or encourage residents to donate their pumpkin to a farm.
- c. Holiday string lights should not go in mixed recycling containers, they can go to electronic waste at local transfer stations.
- d. Wrapping paper and gift bags do not go in mixed recycling, they go in with municipal solid waste.

Municipal Recycling Program Updates from recycling Coordinator/Representative

- P. Silva shared the Town of Redding will have a new register for the transfer station that will allow tracking of different materials.
- A. Dinho shared the Town of Bridgewater will host a Fall Bulky Drop Off day at the town garage on October 23, 2023.
- A. Miles provided an update for the Town of Newtown. The town has revamped the Transfer Station to make the different disposal areas easy to access. The town has implemented a Save as You Throw program and food scraps recycling program.
- S. Conn shared the Town of Brookfield collected electronic waste from municipal buildings and is working with Take2 to clean out Center School. The Town is collecting plastic film at the town hall, and they are using miniature funds for roadside cleanup.
- J. Patterson announced the Town of Roxbury has a Trash Talk scheduled, they are looking into the TREX challenge, and want to improve signage at the Transfer Station.
- T. Carlson provided an update for the Town of Ridgefield. T. Carlson will attend the farmers market promoting the municipal food scraps program and will distribute recycling billboard contest templates. The high school environmental club is strategizing to recognize the recycling center's 50th anniversary.
- J. Fascitelli shared the Town of Wilton is promoting their food scraps program, cleaning up buildings, and upgrading the transfer station software.
- J. Kearns announced the Town of Kent has a Trash Talk scheduled in October via Zoom and shared an update on the food scraps recycling program at the transfer station.
- R. Byrnes shared the Town of Sherman Conservation Commission is having an event and hired CJ May to do a magic show.

Items to be raised by members

None.

Adjournment

Motion by A. Miles second by S. Stauffacher to adjourn the meeting. **Vote:** All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 am.