



## **HOUSATONIC RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY**

### **MINUTES**

**Thursday, February 26, 2026 10:30 a.m.**

**Zoom**

#### **Members or Alternates Present**

Bethel, Dan Carter	8
Bridgewater, Eric Gsell	1
Brookfield, Steve Dunn	7
Danbury, Farley Santos	32
Kent, Eric Epstein	1
New Fairfield, Pat Del Monaco	5
New Milford, Suzanne Von Holt	11
Newtown, Herb Rosenthal	10
Roxbury, Patrick Henry	1
Sherman, Don Lowe	1
Weston, Larry Roberts	4
Wilton, Toni Boucher	<u>7</u>
	<b>88</b>

#### **Others Present:**

Alan Dinho, Bridgewater
Bruce Walczak, First Selectman, Newtown
Fred Hurley, Newtown
Barbara Henry, Roxbury
R. Gatewood, IWS
C. Stanley, IWS
J. Guerrero, USI Insurance Services
Jennifer Heaton-Jones, HRRRA
Jennifer Baum, HRRRA

#### **Members Absent:**

Redding, Ridgefield

#### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman P. Del Monaco at 10:30 a.m. with 88 votes present from 12 towns.

#### **Public Comment:**

No Public Comment.

#### **Chairman and Members' Comment:**

The Chairman noted the increasing number of non-compliant haulers and encouraged member towns to update their local municipal ordinance per the language voted on by the authority in 2017 and 2024.

#### **Director's and Tonnage Report:**

J. Heaton-Jones reviewed highlights from the written Director's Report and tonnage reports (Attachment A).

- MSW tonnage to date is currently **104%** for the FY, and **97%** the same month last year.

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**HOUSATONIC RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY**  
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BRIDGEWATER | BETHEL | BROOKFIELD | DANBURY | KENT | NEW FAIRFIELD | NEW MILFORD  
NEWTOWN | REDDING | RIDGEFIELD | ROXBURY | SHERMAN | WESTON | WILTON

- Recycling tonnage to date is **103%** for the FY and **110%** compared to the same month last year.
- The legislative session has begun. The Director provided testimony on 3 bills
  - H.B. 5151 An Act Concerning Proposals Derived from the Waste Characterization Study.
  - S.B. 147 An Act Concerning a Study on the need for Extended Producer Responsibility for solar panels and vapes and including aerosol paints under the stewardship program.
  - H.B. 5157 An Act Concerning the Tire Stewardship Program.
- The Tire EPR program will launch on March 21, 2026. To participate in the program, municipalities need to register.
- The HRRRA issued an RFP for the Town of Newtown's ASP Composting system.
- The Director shared the presentation that she delivered at the Resource Recycling Conference on February 23, 2026, highlighting the positive impact of municipal organics programs on waste diversion and the cost savings achieved through on-site municipal composting.

#### **Administrative Approvals:**

- a.) **Minutes: Motion** by S. Dunn, second by D. Lowe, to approve the minutes of January 22, 2026, (Attachment B). **Vote: The motion passed;** with 70 votes in favor with abstentions from S. Von Holt (NM) and T. Boucher (WI).
- b.) **Financial Statements:** J. Heaton-Jones reviewed the financial statements through January 31, 2026 (Attachment C). **Motion** by S. Dunn, second by H. Rosenthal, to approve the financial statements through January 31, 2026, as presented. **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 88 votes in favor.
- c.) **Approve lobbyist for 2026: Motion** by P. Del Monaco, second by S. Dunn, to approve the lobbyist for 2026 legislative session. **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 88 votes in favor. Funds from contingency will cover the \$18,000 expense.

#### **New Business:**

##### **6a.) Hauler insurance options**

At the January 22, 2026, meeting, the authority suggested that HRRRA staff investigate insurance pooling for haulers as a potential solution to help haulers with the rising challenge of obtaining insurance.

HRRRA staff issued a survey to the haulers to gauge their interest in buying group insurance. At the time of the HRRRA meeting, 25 haulers completed the survey and 22 haulers stated they would be interested in buying group insurance.

HRRRA staff invited J. Guerrero of USI Insurance Services to present insurance options. J. Guerrero recommended the buying group option for haulers. Under a buying group, a group of haulers

would go to one underwriter. There is no required funding, and each hauler will need to complete the application process.

A discussion ensued on the insurance options. J. Guerrero confirmed that the next step would be to provide a list of interested haulers and a list of their vehicles to an underwriter.

**Motion** by S. Dunn, second by D. Lowe, for the HRRRA to proceed with the next steps for Buying Group insurance for haulers with USI Insurance Services. **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 88 votes in favor.

**6b.) Resolution – to accept CT DEEP SMM grant (Attachment D)**

J. Heaton-Jones presented the “Resolution of the Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority Authorizing Execution of a Personal Service Agreement”.

The purpose of the resolution is to accept the CT DEEP SMMR2 grant award and provide authorization for J. Heaton-Jones to accept and execute the grant funds for the municipalities.

**Motion** by P. Del Monaco, second by S. Dunn, to approve the Resolution of the Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority Authorizing Execution of a Personal Service Agreement of the CT DEEP Sustainable Materials Management Round 2 grant for \$1,542,527 (Attachment D). **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 88 votes in favor.

**6c.) Recycling Tip Fee modification update**

J. Heaton-Jones reported that the Executive Committee convened on February 11, 2026, to address concerns raised by haulers regarding the recycling tip fee and the effect that residuals (contamination) have on the rate. The Committee met with Interstate Waste Services (IWS) to discuss options for negotiating the fee.

The Committee determined that the Authority must address the current contamination rate, which is 28.5%. IWS will conduct a characterization audit in April 2026 to recalculate material composition, with particular attention to contamination levels.

A discussion followed regarding recycling contamination. J. Heaton-Jones requested that the Chief Elected Officials distribute the HRRRA’s recycling education materials and inform residents that they may contact HRRRA with any waste or recycling concerns, including issues related to recycling in multi-family properties.

**Adjournment**

**Motion** by A. Dinho, second P. Roy, to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m. **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 88 votes in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Baum