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**Regional Recycling Task Force
Thursday, January 3, 2008, 10:30 a.m.
Brookfield Town Hall**

MINUTES

The meeting came to order at 10:35 a.m. with 6 members present. In attendance were:

Ruth Byrnes	Sherman
Mike Pascento	Sherman BOE
Steve Merullo	New Fairfield (left at 11:10 a.m.)
Arlene Miles	Newtown
Wendy Lionetti	Ridgefield
Cheryl Reedy	HRRRA

Minutes

R. Byrnes asked to change the 2008 goals for Sherman from piloting to exploring a food waste recycling program in the schools and local restaurants during the next year, explaining that completing a pilot of such a new program was an unrealistic goal for next year. With that change, the members in attendance unanimously consented to approval of the minutes of the December 6th meeting.

Recycling Poster Contest

C. Reedy passed out copies of the poster contest flyer for distribution within each community. Union Savings Bank has agreed to co-sponsor the contest with HRRRA. Each student who participates will receive a piggy bank made from recycled currency or recycled phone books. Additional copies of the flyer can be printed in each municipality or requested from HRRRA. M. Pascento said the Sherman School would participate in the contest. In Newtown, A. Miles said some schools would participate. S. Merullo reported that Park and Rec will be the local coordinator in New Fairfield soliciting participation and sponsorship from school science and art teachers and from the New Fairfield Land Trust, which sponsors an annual Earth Day celebration in town. W. Lionetti said that the contest would likely be coordinated by the Boys and Girls Club in Ridgefield or the High School Roots and Shoots Club.

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Expo

W. Lionetti and V. Roebuck attended an environmentally preferable purchasing expo in Massachusetts a couple of months ago. W. Lionetti reported that the expanse of recycled products was incredible, from carpet to construction material, to paper products such as toilet paper and paper towels to cleaning products and even a waterless toilet on display. They met a woman from Connecticut who sells promotional products made with recycled materials. They also saw new printers on display by Xerox and HP that used different, more environmentally safe, ink cartridges, and lots of copy/printing paper with recycled content. She has shared the information

with Ridgefield's purchasing agent, but noted that buying recycled content typically is not high on the list of criteria used for selecting products to purchase.

Task Force 2008 Meeting Content

The Task Force reviewed potential issues on which they would like to learn more to be covered in future meetings. Issues discussed included:

- Nike Reuse-A-Shoe program and participation
- Regional Earth Day and/or America Recycles Day Activities with a focus on highlighting the activities that municipalities and schools are already doing and uniting them under a common theme.
- Styrofoam Free Schools and Municipal Buildings and Cafeteria Tray Recycling
- Town Green Community Pledge Program
- Bringing local zoning regulations into line with recycling requirements for multi-family and commercial buildings
- Design of a new regional curbside recycling program
- Meet with purchasing agents to discuss a model contract for effective MSW and recycling collection for municipalities and schools

Issues Raised By Members

- M. Pascento noted that Aramark quoted the Sherman School a price of +\$.10 per lunch to switch from Styrofoam to paper trays. Instead the District purchased reusable plastic trays and Aramark provides paper plates. Most school districts, he said, would not be able to purchase reusable plastic trays for all their students, and would be reluctant to change from Styrofoam, despite its environmental hazards, due to the considerable increase in cost that parents would have to bear.
- A. Miles and W. Lionetti both raised the issue of how to gain a foothold for recycling in the schools in Newtown and Ridgefield and how to find the right person in the school district who is interested, willing and able to make a difference in the school facilities.
- C. Reedy discussed the proposal by HRRRA to the CT Food Association for improving curbside recycling in the region. The proposal requested funding for recycling bins for local schools and town facilities, funds for a recycling robot and other tools to assist in presenting the recycling message to local schools, and funds for a part time person to work as a recycling educator with school and community groups.

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.