



H·R·R·A
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**Regional Recycling Task Force Meeting
Thursday, May 7, 2009, 10:30 a.m.
Brookfield Town Hall
Second Floor Conference Room**

MINUTES

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:33 a.m. Those present included R. Byrnes (SH), S. Von Holt and T. McSherry (NM), A. Miles (NE), L. Kulowiec (RE), D. Dunleavy (RTI), S. Hastings (Hudson Baylor), D. Butterini (public), E. Lehman and J. Bosshart (guests), and C. Reedy (HRRA).

Approval of Minutes

Motion by A. Miles, second by S. Von Holt, to approve the minutes of March 12, 2009 as presented. **Vote:** All in favor.

Poster Contest Review

There was a good turnout of Chief Elected Officials and student winners at the poster contest award ceremony. The Task Force thought the Council Chambers at Danbury City Hall was a more comfortable place for the public for the ceremony than at the bank last year. Participation in the contest was up 20% over the first year, and the Task Force members all agreed that the contest should continue in 2010. There was discussion about an overall regional winner and looking for a volunteer hauler who would allow the regional winning poster to be put on the side of a garbage truck for the year.

Pandemic Flu Plan

For information only, C. Reedy reported that the HRRA had purchased enough infection control supplies including hand sanitizer, N95 respirator masks and nitrile gloves to make kits that would last approximately a month for the driver of each garbage truck in the region as a result of a declared novel H1N1 flu pandemic. To date the kits have not been passed out to haulers. When they are, likely before the fall flu season, training will be provided for haulers by a medic from Danbury Hospital. While the likelihood of infection from solid waste collection is minimal, HRRA's objective is to keep the solid waste collection system in the region operating without a hitch during any type of pandemic. The items in the kit are part of the guidance from the CDC for cargo haulers, including solid waste collectors.

New Milford Farms Tip Fee Reduction

To provide a greater price spread between the solid waste tip fee in the region and the food waste tip fee in order to increase the collection rate of food waste, New Milford Farms has lowered its food waste tip fee for haulers collecting in the HRRA region by \$10 per ton for the next year.

Notice of the tip fee reduction was sent to all haulers in their permit renewal packets last week. T. McSherry noted that the planned food waste collection in the New Milford schools was shelved for the present due to budgetary issues.

Habitat for Humanity ReStore

Ernest Lehman, a Housatonic Habitat for Humanity (HHFH) volunteer, gave a brief background on Habitat. Contrary to some popular misconceptions Habitat for Humanity was not started by Jimmy Carter and does not “give away” houses. The non-profit was started in 1976 and now operates in over 100 countries. Habitat is one of the top ten home builders in the United States. It has built 300,000 homes, housing 1.5 million people in the U.S. There are 16 Habitat homes in the HERRA region including 13 in Danbury, 2 in Newtown and 1 in Brookfield. Three others are under construction in Danbury. In order to be considered for a Habitat home, the potential owners must contribute a minimum of 400 hours of sweat equity alongside volunteer labor in building the home, pay all closing costs and be able to afford a no interest 30 year mortgage. It also has to be the family’s first home. Volunteers are always needed and welcomed by the HHFH and the organization is always looking for donated land on which to build.

Joanne Bosshart, the manager of the new HHFH ReStore, said the ReStore project is a way to raise money for HHFH as well as to help reuse and recycle home building and home furnishing items too good to be thrown away. According to the flyer she passed out, the “. . . ReStore is a Home Improvement Resale Store that recycles usable goods to new users.” The ReStore is located at 90 Shelter Rock Road in Danbury, near DMV. The store occupies 2800 sq. ft. of space, and a grand opening is planned for June 13, 2009. She discussed the list of items the store needs and the list of items it cannot accept. Anyone wanting to donate should first call the ReStore to describe their donation and/or send a photo.

C. Reedy noted that bulky waste, construction and demolition debris and oversized MSW are largely untapped sources for improving the region’s recycling efforts and meeting the goal of a 58% diversion rate by 2020.

Items Raised by Members

- Sherman – R. Byrnes reported that the Clean Sherman Day resulted in the collection of 2 full truckloads of old tires, 588 sneakers for the Reuse-a-Shoe program, and lots of other items collected in a 30 yard dumpster donated for the day by Best Sanitation.
- New Milford – S. Von Holt reported that the Keep America Beautiful program in town cleaned up Gallows Hill cemetery.
- Redding – L. Kulowiec reported that Redding’s an litter clean up day held for Earth Day resulted in the collection of a 12 yard dumpster of MSW and 8 yards of bulky waste items.
- Danbury – D. Dunleavy noted that Clean City Danbury Day resulted in 200 tons of bulky waste/oversized MSW tipped at the transfer station on White Street. He suggested that ReStore personnel might want to attend next year’s event because many usable items in good shape are thrown out.
- Ridgefield – C. Reedy noted that the Town of Ridgefield held an EcoFest.

Adjournment

Without objection the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.