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## Regional Recycling Task Force Meeting Thursday, August 2, 2007

### Minutes

The Regional Recycling Task Force (RRTF) convened on Thursday, August 2, 2007, 10:35 a.m. at the Brookfield Town Hall. Task Force members in attendance were:

Pam Brown, Brookfield

Ron Oliveri, New Fairfield

Ruth Byrnes, Sherman

Phil Ross, New Fairfield

Wendy Lionetti, Ridgefield

Suzanne Von Holt, New Milford

Tom McSherry, New Milford

Cheryl Reedy, HRRRA

Also attending was Lynn Waller, from the public. There were no new members to be introduced.

### Approval of Minutes

**Motion** by T. McSherry, second by W. Lionetti, to approve the minutes of the July 5th meeting as presented. **Vote:** All in favor except for R. Oliveri who abstained since he wasn't in attendance for the entire July 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### Update on Sept Meeting with NERC

R. Byrnes reported that she has sent out 120 invitations to the NERC program scheduled for September 6 to various businesses, boards and commission, landscapers, etc. Mayors and First Selectmen from the HRRRA region will also be invited, and the program will be noticed in the Sentinel, Citizen News, NewsTimes and Brookfield Journal. P. Brown asked whether the Principal had approved using Brookfield High School as the site. The school is currently undergoing renovations and parking may be a problem. Ruth will work with Athena Bradley from NERC to finalize the location for the meeting and members will be advised prior to September 6. NERC will also be providing free technical advice on starting a recycling program to small businesses who request.

### Municipal Responses to Brookfield Park and Rec Request

R. Oliveri said that New Fairfield was interested in bidding recycling containers for athletic fields in cooperation with Brookfield and any other interested towns. New Fairfield would need 12 containers for town fields and 12 containers for school fields. The town is not interested in working with other municipalities to bid a collection contract for those containers since existing staff will be able to handle that job. No other municipalities expressed interest in regional purchasing for containers and/or collection.

### 2006-07 MSW and Recycling Reports

C. Reedy passed out copies of HRRRA's 2006-07 MSW and recycling reports showing tonnage of each by hauler by town and reviewed some of the highlights with the group. The recycling

tonnage is only what is tipped at RTI. Towns in which All American Waste (formerly Waste Management) has a significant market share will have lower recycling tonnage since that company does not tip collected recyclables at RTI but uses its own facility, Murphy Road Recycling. Data from other tipping locations should be reported to HRRRA and to the municipalities in time for inclusion in the annual municipal DEP recycling reports.

### **Municipal Checklist Progress**

- As of the morning of the meeting, R. Byrnes reported that recycling receptacles had been placed on Sherman playing fields thanks to Hudson Valley Preservation, a local company that made the receptacles for the town. The Town Hall and Sherman School are switching from All American Waste to Best Sanitation as their waste hauler so that their recyclables will go to RTI. C.J. May, President of the CT Recyclers Association, has agreed to present his Recycling Magic show to the entire K-8 student body at the Sherman School at a date to be determined in the fall.
- W. Lionetti reported that the Town of Ridgefield and RACE are planning to work with coaches next spring to enlist their help in setting up and breaking down recycling containers at the town's ball fields. Recycling containers have been placed at Ballard Park during the summer outdoor concert series this year. The containers, 35 gallon totes on wheels with a hole the size of a can in the lid, have been provided by Hudson Baylor. So far the rate of contamination in the outdoor totes has been 5% with a goal of 3% set by the town. Recycling in the Board of Education buildings in Ridgefield were up and running as of July 7<sup>th</sup>. The Library in town also has a great recycling program. Wendy is working with the Welcome Wagon to update recycling information passed out to new homeowners. The information will be provided in a reusable shopping bag.
- P. Ross said that in New Fairfield, lots of water and sport drink bottles are being left on the fields. The school needs larger recycling containers so that they don't have to be emptied so often. R. Oliveri reported that he was working to bridge the disconnect in New Fairfield between the HR Department and other employees' perception of the town recycling program. The schools are doing a great job of recycling, but the Library is not yet. The local Youth Leadership Program for 07-08 will focus on a recycling project. There are also plans to feature recycling on the town's new website which is now under design.
- T. McSherry reported that there was no recycling available at the New Milford Fair Days. At New Milford schools, he said, there is a good recycling program in place, but more work needs to be done on recycling on school property outside of the buildings. S. Von Holt reported that the Public Works Department has gone out to bid for office paper recycling.

The meeting was adjourned without dissent at 12:05 p.m. The next meeting of the Regional Recycling Task Force will be held on Thursday, September 6, 2007, 10:30 a.m. at the Sherman School, 2 Route 37 East, in Sherman, CT.