



H·R·R·A  
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**Regional Recycling Task Force  
Thursday, December 6, 2007. 10:30 a.m.  
Brookfield Town Hall**

**MINUTES**

The meeting came to order at 10:33 a.m. with 10 members present. Four additional members entered during the meeting. In attendance were:

Ruth Byrnes	Sherman
Mike Pascento	Sherman BOE
Dave Seegers	Sherman BOE
Suzanne Von Holt	New Milford
Phil Ross	New Fairfield BOE
Steve Merullo	New Fairfield
Amy Oddo	Bethel (unofficial)
Bob Germinaro	Bethel BOE
Tom Newsome	Redding
Dorina Leslie	Brookfield (unofficial)
Ted Cutsumpas	Danbury
Christine Miller	Danbury BOE
Chris Goodrich	Habitat for Humanity/Boy Scouts
Cheryl Reedy	HRRRA

**Minutes**

**Motion** by T. Cutsumpas, second by B. Germinaro, to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2007 meeting as presented. **Vote:** All in favor but for R. Byrnes who abstained, having not received the minutes prior to the meeting.

**Recycling Poster Contest**

C. Reedy distributed for review and comment a draft flyer for the poster contest that can be posted in school buildings. The flyer will be finalized and distributed at the January Task Force meeting. Union Savings Bank has been asked to sponsor the contest and provide funding for awards as well as take aways for all participants.

**Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Expo**

This report was tabled to a future meeting since neither V. Roebuck nor W. Lionetti was in attendance to give the report.

## **Recycling Goals for 2008**

The recycling goals set by each municipality and each school district as reported at the meeting follow:

### **Town of Redding – Tom Newsome**

- Develop a standard recycling program to give to schools on a CD or DVD
- Maintain town's status as a model recycling community as designated by DEP
- Work to keep costs to minimum for the town with contracts expiring in 2009

### **Town of New Fairfield – Steve Merullo**

- Collect office paper in Town Hall for recycling
- Follow through with paper at the collection area to insure it's being kept separate
- Post guidelines for recycling in Town Hall

### **New Fairfield Public Schools – Phil Ross**

- Review and begin to replace polystyrene and Styrofoam products from school kitchens with more environmentally friendly products.
- Collect and recycle plastic drink bottles in the Middle School.
- Collect and recycle plastic drink bottles on the Rebel Turf Field.

### **Town of New Milford – Suzanne Von Holt**

- Set default for two-sided use on town copiers and use both sides of all pieces of paper generated in the town hall.
- Collect cans and bottles in town hall for recycling.
- Review cleaning products used and make changes where appropriate for less toxic, but effective, alternatives.
- Turn off lights in offices on sunny days.

### **Town of Bethel – Amy Oddo (Unofficial participant)**

- Have First Selectman appoint a representative for the Town of Bethel to the RRTF.

### **Bethel Public Schools – Bob Germinaro**

- Collect bottles and cans in classrooms and cafeterias for recycling.
- Supply paper recycling bins to every classroom.
- Have each Principal set their own school's new recycling initiative for 2008.
- Include a statement in each bid spec for the district stating a preference for recycled products and doing business with companies that recycle and otherwise respect the environment.
- Standardize the town and school recycling programs.
- Recognize employee recycling efforts in their yearly reviews.

### **City of Danbury – Ted Cutsumpas**

- Supply office paper recycling baskets for every office, desk and copy machine in City Hall, Senior Center, Library, Police Department, etc.
- Insure maintenance company maintains separation of recyclables for recycling truck pickup.
- City will purchase only recycled paper.
- Increase the time and stops for the City Recycling Truck including schools and City Hall.
- Increase resident's awareness of recycling, the law and its benefits to the environment and the community.

**Brookfield Public Schools – Lisa Morelli**

- Obtain funding from the Brookfield Education Foundation for the District's recycling initiatives.
- Provide indoor and outdoor recycling receptacles at all schools.
- Increase awareness of the District's recycling initiatives through the District website.

**Town of Newtown – Arlene Miles**

- Educate the community about how recycling impacts the environment.
- Get the word out to the community about the town's curbside recycling program.
- Take 3 test neighborhoods, sample the number of households currently recycling, send a different ad to each neighborhood, then re-sample the households to determine which ad was most effective in increasing curbside recycling.

**Town of Sherman – Ruth Byrnes**

- Educate the adult population, especially those without children in school, about recycling.
- Work with the Sherman Merchants and Tradesmen Association to sponsor two roadside cleanups.
- Place more recycling containers in all town buildings.
- Continue to implement the recommendations made by NERC from its September review of town and school recycling efforts.
- Explore a food waste recycling program with the schools, American Pie restaurant and IGA grocery store in town.

**The Sherman School – Mike Pascento**

- Continue plastic bottle recycling but try to wean out use of plastic bottles at the school by encouraging reusable water bottles for students and coffee mugs for teachers.
- Students who "get caught" recycling get trash cash bucks that they can use to buy an extra recess, lunch with a favorite teacher, etc.
- Eliminate use of Styrofoam trays in school cafeteria.
- Provide drop off opportunities once or twice a year at the school for children whose parents don't recycle at home.
- Third grade to take part in the Reuse-a-Shoe program in Spring 2008.

**Huckleberry Hill and Center Elementary Schools, Brookfield – Dorina Leslie**

- Continue recycling water bottles, office paper and cardboard and report results on a regular basis.
- Receive funding from either the Town or Board of Education budgets to support the school-wide efforts more fully with proper bins and equipment needed.
- Continue educating students and staff on the importance of not only recycling but also reducing and reusing for a greener planet.
- Recycling bulletin board in both schools.
- Formation of student Green Teams focusing on environmental issues.
- Replace Styrofoam trays in cafeterias.
- Standardize town and school recycling efforts.

**New Milford Public Schools – Tom McSherry (sent in after the meeting)**

- Push the schools to be more involved and visible in their efforts towards recycling.

- Get more "buy in" from staff on recycling.
- Get more "buy in" from school visitors who still throw recyclables in the trash even though there are recycling bins right next to them.

#### **Issues from Members**

- T. Newsome encouraged members to read the article in the latest edition of Connecticut Magazine with town by town descriptions of climate change.
- C. Reedy reported that Advanced Recycling Corporation, at 302 White Street in Danbury, is willing to provide an 8-yard container for any town that would like to collect their junk mail and office paper. There would be no charge to have the container picked up when the town call for pick up, but the container would have to be supervised to cut down on contamination. Tonnage would be reported to HRRRA, but the Authority would not receive any revenue sharing from the tonnage.
- Pam Brown has resigned from the Task Force after leaving her position with the Town of Brookfield. Pat Howe has resigned from representing the Town of Kent since he no longer has time to devote to the Task Force.
- R. Byrnes and A. Oddo will make a report on the work of the Task Force to date at the regular HRRRA meeting on January 18, 2008 at 10:30 a.m. in Room 133 at the Brookfield Town Hall. Any other members who want to attend this meeting are welcome.

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