

CT MRN
February 11, 2010
Notes

Attendance: John Powers, Chris Stefanowicz, Vincent Mastriano, Sherill Baldwin

Phone: Tony Philpin, Charles Paonessa, Mary Bennett, Mike Yurish

Reviewed different aspects of the new materials exchange site – that DEP will be administering for CT MRN until the end of September 2010 (to complete the ReCONNstruction Center/NERC project).

Materials – just building materials or more? By including more materials – broadening the scope – we’re likely to get more folks listing/taking materials. More traffic is better for everyone involved. All agreed – we should open it up.

Sherill shared info about other sites – and felt strongly that residents/individuals have a lot of options for reusing materials – and suggested that the site be open to only businesses and municipalities. Type of businesses? Non-profit or for-profit – who have reusable materials. Can people sell things? Yes, this isn’t just FREE listings – it’s about materials available and/or wanted – it’s up to the folks that post to decide the price (if any).

Name: CT Material Trader – follows similar names for other states. Following a standard should make it easier for folks to understand what the site is about. Changing the name will also help broaden the concept – that it’s not just building materials. Everyone agreed/was okay with the name.

Url address/domain name: It was suggested to KC and Sherill that we change the name from buildingmaterialreuse.com match the name we decide on for the site. So, if we go with CTMaterialTrader – we should purchase the domains CTMaterialTrader.net; .com and .org. We’ll have one as the main site and if folks type in the wrong address – they get channeled to the correct site. (they’d also be channeled from the old site). BUT – it will cost \$10-20/domain name. DEP has no money.

Chris said it shouldn’t take much if we all put in a few dollars. Everyone agreed – if we all put in a few bucks it should pay for it. Chris also said we might eventually add a membership fee of a few dollars in the future to cover expenses like this. If businesses are getting advertising (on the site) and able to move/sell merchandise from projects – that should pay for itself.

Rules – Sherill read the policy rules that she and KC drafted. Everyone thought they were fine.

Policy and Rules

The CT Material Trader does not allow listings for:

- live animals
- illegal goods
- hazardous materials

By submitting a listing with CT Material Trader now or in the future, you agree unconditionally to release the CT Department of Environmental Protection (CT DEP), the Northeast Recycling Council (NERC), their employees and agents from any and all liability whatsoever resulting from, pursuant to, or connected with such listing and any future transactions resulting there from. Neither CT DEP, nor NERC, their sponsors, nor any advisor or employee thereof is liable for any information, error, or representation, nor makes any warranty, expressed or implied, as to the accuracy or quality of any information, service, or product/equipment offered through CT Material Trader. Neither CT DEP, nor NERC, through their partnership in this program, is making any legal determination whatsoever, including whether listed material is hazardous under applicable law. CT Material Trader reserves the right not to list a material, to de-list a material, or to edit information provided by the listing company.

Who can post? Members only. You have to 'sign up' – create an account in order to post. KC will approve your membership – doesn't take long. She'll also approve all your listings once they're in. This should help protect everyone from scammers.

Tony shared he continues to wonder about this project – reaching the commercial market is already a challenge because they want everything now and usually more than a reuse store can offer – not sure how this is going to help.

Sherill said that Mary Ann from NERC – presented information about this project after hearing how we should create an outreach/promo strategy. Although we're doing it a bit backwards, this is a gift opportunity, in that the development of the site has already been paid for – we just need to do some minor tweaking. NERC had a university research how to help reuse centers increase sales/awareness a few years back and the result is this project... low cost and easy.

So this is a trial. We have until September 30, 2010 to figure out if we like it. So until then we should create a system that we like and feel will be helpful. We should also use it. If everyone posted at least 5 things a month – we'd get lots of listings and when people visited – it would feel busy and list lots of interesting things – because everyone has different types of things. Sherill shared she has the go-ahead to promote the site once we've changed the name, domain name and worked out some administrative issues. Hopefully the site will be up and running in 4 weeks or less.

If by the end of September the group feels it didn't work – they posted stuff – they put on their business cards and events – and it didn't make an impact – then we let the site go to rest.

However, if it does succeed, we'll talk more than about how to keep this resource going for the group.

Acceptable materials. Sherill provided a list of categories that other sites use. The group reviewed and settled on this... including FREE. People wanted to be able to post things as Free as well as perhaps under the material category. Listing free stuff is always good.

Categories:

Appliances	Glass & Mirrors
Agricultural	Hardscaping
Architectural Salvage	Household Items
Art/Creative Materials	Insulation
Cabinets & Shelving	Landscaping
Containers & Packaging	Lighting
Countertops & Tabletops	Lumber & Wallboard (unpainted)
Doors & Windows	Plumbing Material
Electronics	Restaurant Equipment
Fencing and Barriers	Roofing Material
Fixtures and Fittings	Rubber/Tires
Flooring	Sporting Goods & Equipment
FREE	Textiles & Leather
Furniture & Office Equipment	Tools and Equipment
General Supplies	Wood & Pallets

Events – Sherill mentioned that in the posting area – you can post events. She'll post upcoming MRN, recycling and green building type of events on the list. She encouraged others to post any upcoming events – open houses, sales events etc.

- Creating building material reuse outreach/promo plan was couched for next meeting due to small number of folks in attendance.
- What does the future hold? Sherill shared that meetings and the focus of meetings will change if we get the BMRA conference proposal. At the next meeting we should know if we got it – and that every other meeting/month should focus solely on the conference.

John felt it should be more. We should be meeting monthly about the conference.

Sherill also shared that a conference committee and subcommittees will be formed – and may also meet regularly and that we should come up with a meeting schedule that doesn't overwhelm everybody.

- Sherill posed the question – what if we don't get the proposal? What should we do then? John said new projects/new work will be created when we create the outreach/promo

strategy. Sherill shared that the conference itself is part of that – and should be viewed as an awareness piece too – if we get the conference.

- What other things do people want to learn about/focus on?
 - Learn more about exporting reusable materials
 - How to reach the commercial market?
 - Focus on regarding/recertifying use of lumber/wood – working with the local building inspectors.
- CT C & D Reuse/Recycling listserv. Sherill shared she also facilitates a group focusing on gypsum wallboard recycling from new construction. She's proposing that group start focusing on C & D recycling in general. And that there is some overlap between MRN and C & D recycling. She shares a lot of information via email, and spends time linking people together. She asked if the group would benefit from a listserv instead of a distribution list. The difference – members could post there events, ideas, questions or concerns to the listserv and others could reply – keeping everyone part of the conversation. Sherill wouldn't be needed to help make the connections.

Chris thought the group was ready and said it was a good idea. John agreed. Sherill said she'd bring it up to the Gypsum group and see what folks thought. If those folks thought it would be helpful too – she'll start a new listserv.

- Announcements/Events: TRP completed their first full deconstruction in Connecticut (yeah, congrats). Sherill wondered if this was the first full-deconstruction of a residential house in Connecticut. Anyone know?
- Middlesex Habitat ReStore is not open yet – but they are beginning to accept material. If you have excess materials you'd like to donate to Middlesex to help get them going – Sherill can share contact info.

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 16, 2010 at 2pm EST

Notes taken by Sherill Baldwin