

**Chris Burdick's Remarks on the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
New Recycling Center for Town of Bedford
October 29, 2016**

Thank you for joining us on this lovely Autumn Day.

The significance of this new recycling center is its critical role in the Town's successful efforts to dramatically reduce our carbon footprint and to improve our Adams Street Highway Yard. The proud partnership of the Town and Bedford 2020 has resulted in a sea change in attitudes as our residents, our businesses, our entire community embrace the effort. None of those successes would be possible without the trailblazing efforts of Bedford 2020's Mary Beth Kass, Ellen Conrad, Lee Roberts, Olivia Farr and Midge Iorio or the steadfast, unanimous support of successions of Bedford Town Boards, represented here today with my colleagues, Lee Roberts, Mary Beth Kass, Don Scott, and MaryAnn Carr.

You look at this new recycling center and you see accomplishment. You also see promise and opportunity. You see a recycling center that wouldn't be here without the vision and persistence of Public Works Commissioner Kevin Winn who painstakingly searched for parcels of property within a stone's throw of the former recycling center. I remember well his phone call reporting that he found this site – not only vacant but with the possibility of having its use at no cost to the Town. Nor would we be at this site today were it not for the New York State Department of Transportation which owns the site, recognized our need and supported the Town. We also are grateful for the efforts of State Assemblyman David Buchwald and Governor Cuomo's office who helped secure lightning fast action on our application for a DOT use and occupancy permit – a process which normally takes a half year or more and came through in fewer than 90 days. Nor would you see the superb workmanship without Road Foreman Andy Rosafort and the crew that worked with him for the greater part of the project, George Graniero, Gene Rosafort and Matt Foglia. You also see fewer containers as single stream recycling is proudly practiced here thanks to the efforts of Bedford 2020 with Peter Kuniholm at the lead in helping Commissioner Winn plan and design the new center and Winters Brothers which operates the center,

not only providing the lowest cost but doing so with Single Stream and with employees on site whom our residents regularly praise. Thank you Ryan Bingham of Winters Brothers for joining us today.

You may not be aware that this new and improved recycling facility also is the linchpin for the Town's critical project to provide environmentally friendly and regulatory compliant salt and sand storage for winter operations at our Adams Street Highway Yard. Relocating the recycling center has opened up critically needed space not only for salt and sand storage but also for improved winter operations space and employee parking, regulatory compliant truck washing facilities and adequately sized equipment maintenance facilities. And should we move ahead with our sewer plans, the Highway Yard will be connected to the sewer line for even more environmentally sensitive and less costly discharge of wastewater.

I do not want us to overlook the promise and opportunity here – every day this site is open it promotes Single Stream recycling as we all work hard to increase our recycling rates – and with fewer containers, you see we have more physical space for other means to decrease our carbon footprint as we do more and more to implement our Climate Action Plan. With Bedford being one of the first, if not the first, municipality in New York State to make the Climate Action Plan a part of the Town's Comprehensive Town Plan.

I ask you to help us. Help us take this further. Help us increase our recycling rates. And today you can help us select recycling bins to be distributed throughout Town. Here too Bedford 2020 has taken the lead, providing the funds for pilot recycling bins. And thanks as well to my Town Board colleagues for expanding the pilot to a full recycling bin project and funding it in the Town's about to be adopted 10 year Capital Plan.

We move ahead together proudly and enthusiastically. Thank you!