

Salisbury/Sharon Transfer Station Recycling Advisory Committee (TRAC) Minutes

Weds Aug 18, 2021 – Zoom Meeting - 5:00PM

NOTE: Minutes considered DRAFT ONLY until reviewed and acted upon at the next regular meeting

TRAC Members: Barbara Bettigole (chair), Anne Saunders, Casey Flanagan, Ed Regan & guest, Karen from Salisbury

1 - Meeting called to order by Barbara Bettigole at 5:02 PM

2 - Approval of Agenda - Moved, seconded, all in favor

3 - Approve Minutes from June 16 - Moved, seconded, all in favor

4 - Manager's Report - NA tonight

5 - Future of Food Waste Pilot - 2 options, with the Lee Sawyer Grant or without if not awarded, discussion of choices we may need to make plus citizen and committee feedback. Barb reports that 6.6 tons is our current estimated diversion since pilot began on May 1

a) With grant, more options, can expand to more residents plus begin to include restaurants, schools, other food generating businesses

b) Discussion of how to continue if grant not awarded, less costly collection & hauling alternatives, grants will be finalized this September, Barb & Casey suggest we could try some form of crowdfunding with our first 4 months of data if needed, all agree

- Karen talks about school involvement in various ways, composting or other ways to reduce food waste, approximately 250 students, most very interested in recycling, could be involved in on-site separation and either in-house composting or bring to transfer station

- Casey also mentions sending a questionnaire to participants in the pilot, find out what is working and what could be improved

- Restaurant collection possibilities in future too, Barb will ask both Brian & CURBSIDE COMPOSTING about those possibilities for future, TRAC can later contact Sharon/Salisbury restaurants

- Barb mentions possibility of SustainableCT grants and will confer with some other composting services, Blue Earth and 1-2 others

6 - Website Ideas - brief discussion of new website, what-goes-where widget, educational tools & links are now up, Barb suggests additions including LOCAL CHAMPIONS section highlighting those who have championed Reduce Reuse Recycle efforts, links for educators, resources, webinars, plus sections aimed at residents, restaurants & businesses, advice on reducing SINGLE use items including reusable tableware, accessories by request, BYO take-out containers, other ways to move towards ZERO WASTE & examples of municipalities that have mandated the above. Casey says website progressing nicely. Karen says if schools become involved, will do outreach in various ways, possibly have Brian & other speakers give talks.

7 - Comments/ Other - Ed brings up recent issue of TS users being abusive & unreasonable with staff regarding swap shop hours, not following what can go where instructions, insisting on entrance without a sticker. Provides some detail on recent incidents. TRAC will take under advisement for next meeting and meanwhile ask TS staff if this is a frequent issue & what steps are possible/advisable.

- Second issue is an Email complaint from a TS neighbor that Barb explained. There were several complaints, some to be considered, maybe not all. In order of importance issues were: appearance of TS entrance, not mowed, signage lacking, not in keeping with neighborhood aesthetics, 2nd was excessive noise, concerns on commercial hauler use & paying their fair share, hopper canopies, noticeable garbage in parking lot, wants to see an ANNUAL REPORT on general use, finances, issues. Short discussion on how and who can answer and timeline to both answer and address this & similar complaints, Casey says the appearance & noise complaints may be valid. Barb will speak with Brian first and TRAC members asked to please send feedback & ideas on above.

8- Adjourn - Barb B adjourned the meeting at 6:02 PM

Note: Next meeting Weds Oct 20 18, unless special meeting needed earlier to discuss Sawyer Grant results

Minutes recorded by Anne Saunders, TRAC Member, Sharon

TRAC 08.18.2021