

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

Weds Oct 20, 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 & Brian Bartram, T S Manager

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 Aug 18 - Moved, seconded, all in favor

4 - Manager's Report - Brief report tonight, Brian already sent Email regarding SSTS not selected for a Lee Sawyer Grant, Barb will go over more in Item 5. Also the new TS has now be operating for ONE YEAR. Station and staff doing well, Brian's health issues notwithstanding, staff has covered all. Casey asked about business continuity plan for TS in case of emergency, short discussion on this, mostly a TOWN HALL issue says Brian plus TS staff are all qualified to deal with issues so far, maybe need more clarification in future, all small towns have similar issues.

Note: At end of meeting Brian adds a few thoughts on future of MIRA (Materials Innovation & Recycling Authority) & therefore MSW, recycling & TRASH TO ENERGY in CT as addendum to Mgrs Report, MIRA declining steadily with continued delays, shortages, resignations, equipment failures, closing of the burn plant looming & no alternatives in sight, as mentioned in Email reply by Anne, all we can do for now is REDUCE WASTE as much as possible to alleviate situation, CT has no solution, maybe privatize in future.

5 - Updates on progress of 2 grants

a) Lee Sawyer Grant - SSTS did not receive, Brian sent TRAC members & BOS the Press Release with all details, looks like larger, more urban projects got lion's shares especially food waste reduction & item re-use ones involving food banks, swap shops & tool lending projects, so not this year for us.

b) CCSM Grant - Brian & Barb B working with Curtis on the EOI form for this one (Expression of Interest)

c) Restaurants Inclusion - Karen Lundeen helping, not ready yet but preliminary feelers with area restaurants re: food waste collection, Casey has contacted 2 Sharon restaurants including JP Gifford, Karen interested in helping in future, possible schools inclusion & on-site composting, Casey commented on COVID related MSW & recycling upticks in MSW partly due to increasing local population could be added to our CCSM grant proposal on Food Waste Reduction.

6 - Website Progress - Barb B shows some on screen sections including swap shop info, video links on education, resources & others like regional recycling newsletters, still working on LOCAL CHAMPIONS section highlighting those who have fostered Reduce Reuse Recycle efforts as discussed previously.

- SSTS Instagram Account set up & progressing, Brian is admin, 51 followers so far, a presence that can be expanded in future, Barb asks Anne for addl thoughts, Anne feels is an ADDED VALUE, allows for user input, much of the content can be crowd-sourced, minimal admin needed so as not to increase staff workload, Casey says good example is recently uploaded user pics of nice items in the Swap Shop.

7 - Handling of Comments & Concerns of Public made to Staff -

- Appearance of TS entrance

- Road signs

- Taller Book shelves in Swap Shop

Short discussion on these and 1-2 others, in progress on some, some not feasible like road signs, would be in state owned right-of-way, plus TS is a town facility, not for gen public, concerns will be discussed, answered, handled as they come in.

8 - Consideration of Volunteers - Swap Shop & gardening, Brian says vols have been a problem in the past when interacting with users, not feasible now, off-site help & help on gardening at TS could be considered.

9 - Messaging - Targeted signs with broader msgs, such as REDUCE WASTE AT ITS SOURCE with bullet points, Barb shows examples, users really like the ones we have now & find them very helpful, more in future, we can print double-sided on the ones we have. Also include on website.

10 - Comments - Barb will submit 2022 meeting schedule, we all agree to keep this day & time in 2022.

11 - Adjourn - Barb B adjourned the meeting at 6:18 PM

Note: Next meeting Weds Dec 15, may adjust day & time since close to holidays

Minutes recorded by Anne Saunders, TRAC Member, Sharon