

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

## Weds Dec 15, 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 Reagan plus Brian Bartram, TS Manager, Curtis Rand, Salisbury First Selectman & resident Carol Flaton

**1 - Meeting called to order** by Barbara Bettigole at 5:01 PM

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

**3 - Approve Minutes from Oct 20, 2021** - Moved, seconded, all in favor

**4 - Manager's Report** - Brian & Curtis on MIRA update first, Thru coming June, we still have trash to Energy burn plant running, will close then and we are still under contract with MIRA thru 2027, who must take all of our MSW even if switch to landfill or other, MIRA wants all towns to stay with them for best pricing with either landfill or other options. Casey asks about other options, Brian & Curtis explain there are no better options than MIRA in any case, hope something will develop but MIRA also takes all our recyclables, we need to do better job on recycling, diverting food waste & greatly reducing MSW. Too much goes into MSW that does not belong there, state has turned clock back 40 years says Curtis via not upgrading the burn plants when they had the chance, very disappointing.

**Addl Manager Note:** Brian reports that one of our gate staff has suddenly and sadly passed away this past week. A letter of condolence from the town and from Brian & the TS will be sent to his family, flowers too. All else is well at the transfer station, all running well, nothing else to report.

**5 - Food Waste Program without grants** - No grants were awarded to us so we will continue on without, looking for best service fees on collection, Curbside Compost is our current servicer, also talking to area schools & other facilities to help increase collection amounts. Barbara and Brian recently did site visit to Pine Island Farm in Sheffield MA, several other options, competitors & resource sharing ideas were discussed. Barbara has list of several, checking out more options. Compost movement in general is progressing so more research & discussion on expanding our pilot. Our pilot group all wish to continue. Can we create our own compost facility of some kind, looking into, a regional facility for food waste diversion, Brian says DEEP may or may not help, licensing questions, discussion of some sticking points more to be done. If composting your own food waste at your own facility, no permit is usually required. Casey asked about cost for food waste service fees, approximately \$250 per month for our 36 totes is the info from Curbside Compost for about 120 households at 1.5 tons per month, good diversion optics. We are continuing through December and exploring options for future, go month-to-month for now, but will keep present pilot going until next fiscal year while continuing to explore options including composting at home education, some discussion on this.

**6 - Website Progress** - Barb B reports that this is going very well, many more updates including resources for educators including Region One schools, community notices and new signage, pop-ups with various info including NON-RECYCLABLE gift wrap NOT and holiday closings, all progressing very well.

**7 - Handling Suggestions From Public** - Continuing some discussion on this issue, let community know about TRAC and how/where to address suggestions or questions, to TRAC or to Brian preferably by Email. All reasonable suggestions, questions & complaints will be addressed. Curtis & Brian say almost no complaints from users or neighbors. Noise reduction was the only actual complaint & has been addressed.

Note: Skipping to Item 9 for a minute, to add to above on suggestions, new signs, pop-ups, flyers, message of the week posters are about to go to printer and will be displayed at TS.

**8 - Consideration of Volunteers** – Have discussed previously, has been a problem in the past, possible in future for off-site help & gardening at TS. Brian mentions that many users “VOLUNTEER” on their own by organizing the swap shop, taking garbage away from the swap shop. Anne concurs that she sees this all the time and also does the same so maybe not necessary now.

**9 - Messaging** - See above note

**10 - Comments** - Carol makes some PAY TO THROW comments re: other places she has lived including Switzerland where this is a common practice, Barb & Brian reply on our many, many former discussions going back years on this and how has been fraught with pushback and problems. More on this at another time tho.

**11 - Adjourn** - Barb B adjourned the meeting at 5:57 PM

*Note: Next meeting Weds Feb 16*

Minutes recorded by Anne Saunders, TRAC Member, Sharon