

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

Weds April 20, 2022 – 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 joins late & TS Mgr Brian Bartram

1 - Meeting called to order by Barbara Bettigole at 5:00 PM

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

3 - Approve Minutes from Feb 16, 2022 - Moved, seconded, all in favor

4 - Manager's Report - Brian reports big change at TS is population strongly coming back, especially weekends & after holidays, number of cars turning back in driveway on last 2 holidays, Good Fri & Easter Sun even tho website, outgoing phone message & gate sign at TS announced closures, much increased interest. Brian also reported, for first time he found plastic bags in TS compost bins & not from any of our pilot users so he will contact people who may not be paying attention to signage. Brian did a presentation on our food waste pilot this month for the CT Compost Network. Also a MIRA update, as of July 1, trucking to a PA landfill may start, alternatives being explored, many CT cities pulling out of MIRA, future options still up in the air, Brian will report again. Most of the COG cities (CT Council of Governments) are still in MIRA. Barb asked which transfer stations are still in? More info next time. Brian says other MIRA trash-to-energy plants still operating but just like the Hartford one, are aging.

5 - Food Waste Program a) TRAC Members attended the CET (Center for Eco-Technology) online meeting yesterday, 31 people total attended, programs for larger institutions such as schools & restaurants were discussed, good first effort & info.

b) Building density to reduce costs also discussed, other transfer stations in attendance, 3 prep schools & several others, hopefully in future can reach critical mass with enough customers/material to do this & hope this organization, CET, will help with resources & info. Barbara happy with the turnout & asked others on their thoughts. Anne felt attendance very decent, good info & probably institutions will opt in when their costs become critical, others may start sooner. Brian feels this connection could aid our next GRANT ask. He also mentioned that CET seems very approachable.

c) Expansion of our residential food waste pilot - increasing local demand noted, we will expand incrementally, adding a couple totes to start, have other basic costs covered, will bump up in phases as Brian suggests, go carefully forward. Brian says July 1 still the target date to begin expansion up to 400 households, not too big a jump first to make sure all doable. Barb worried about growing the Email list, must handle with personal attention during growth phase, develop ideas, volunteers, check other towns procedures on starter kits & how-to info, perhaps a small initial kit cost. Casey mentions our first 120 households feel they're part of a private club, the personal touch has been important, more so than a fee.

d) Strategies for reaching residents on expansion include in-town signage, website, Facebook, Instagram, Anne mentions a referral system, ask the 120 initial pilot group to refer a household, all feel this will work.

Brian mentions possible pilot on home digesters for residential composting, could we obtain a limited number, maybe a grant, Anne mentioned her EARTH MACHINE home composting experience, over 20 years now, Brian says new GREEN CONE composters keep down pests better, we will work on this as well.

6 - Webinars & Newsletters - The NRRRA ASK ME ANYTHING recycling webinar tomorrow plus others upcoming, Brian keeps TRAC up to date. Barb says that most are recorded so do register even if can't make the meeting, can replay later. Brian noted legislation updates on EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) for gas cylinders, new tire bill too but packaging bill has not made it out of committee.

7 - Website Progress - The TS website had over 80 hits on Good Fri, people checking in frequently, Brian says we are keeping up on new content, Meili Farm & Sharon Farm Market pics will be added & site revamp planned by July 1, no online user fee system yet but Casey will ask towns about this.

8 - Help Table - We may want to do this again with examples, what goes where, other education.

9 - Brainstorming waste reduction initiatives - What else besides food waste, Barbara mentions a few to consider, bottles, cans, plastic film, will discuss more in future, please all think about.

10 - Help Table - already done in #8

11 - Other Business, Comments from Members & Public - None

12 - Adjourn - Barb B adjourned the meeting at 5:59 PM

Note: Next meeting sched for Weds June 15

Minutes recorded by Anne Saunders, TRAC Member, Sharon