

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

Weds Aug 17, 2022 – Zoom Meeting - 5PM

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

TRAC Members Present: Barbara Bettigole (chair), Anne Saunders, Casey Flanagan, Ed Reagan plus TS Mgr Brian Bartram & Salisbury 1st Selectman Curtis Rand joins for first half.

1 - Meeting called to order by Barbara Bettigole at 5:03 PM

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

3 - Approve Minutes from April 20, 2022 - Moved, seconded, all in favor

*Note: Skip to Item 5 first since 1st Selectman Rand needs to leave mtg early.

4 - Manager's Report - Mostly on food waste pilot, already covered in ITEM 5, normal summer, pretty busy. Brian reports all going well. Casey asked ques on demo box fees, may need to do better in future, lots of small armfuls going in with no fee collected. Other streams such as metal we have more return on.

5 - Food Waste Program

a) Expansion of residential food waste program - Expansion going well, up to 280 house holds now, 9 toters and sometimes overburdened a bit, Brian getting more starter kit supplies ASAP

b) Center for EcoTechnology (CET) follow-up. CET presentation in April, follow-up in progress with some of the local schools & food waste generating businesses.

c) Ideas for incentivizing FW (food waste) diversion for restaurants, schools & institutions - Some gen ideas for incentivizing have come up, businesses may feel cost is a barrier as well as collection, pick-up, hauling, plus questions about usefulness & demand for end products.

Brian reports that our TS is a small fish in the pond compared to larger programs. Most resulting compost is for soil amendment at best but reduces food waste down to 10% of former volume, solar panels & other ideas in future could benefit us, pre-permit evaluation also needed to qualify for a machine via DEEP, financially & permit-wise may be obstacles so may be best to use a third-party like MacEnroe rather than our own composting machine. Curtis has talked to local businesses & is supportive on moving forward, just a few businesses in Salisbury are large FW generators such as schools & institutions like Noble Horizons. Curtis has researched solar panels for the TS & composter, we would not get gov write-off but can greatly reduce costs, possibly get grant or pass thru write-off to other businesses in the compost program. Barb mentioned her recent site visits; machines, end-products & future follow-up.

Curtis mentioned one user he spoke with saying they NOW had a VERY different outlook via being in our FW pilot, much more mindful on buying food, using vs wasting, recycling, all influenced by our FW pilot.

A few more comments on next steps, possibility of a dehydration unit, online info at Eco-Rich.com, mentioned the Stamford CT compost machines, sev smaller ones rather than one large & are solar-run, easiest for now is go with 3rd party until we have greater quantity especially if we can dehydrate on-site. Barb says McEnroe has seen our pilot, even checked bag contents so future partnership possible. Ed mentioned pilot users can freeze compost at home until able to bring to the TS as a tip for home users on rotting and odor. People are learning what to do thru program. Lastly, do we want to propose anything to towns on future hauler fees for garbage vs food waste, differential to incentivize further.

6 - Webinars & Newsletters - The April CET presentation was most recent but as mentioned mostly aimed at much larger facilities, most of TRAC now subscribe to the NRRRA (Northeast Resource & Recovery Association) newsletter, has info on end markets, resources, best practices, legislation & more.

7 - Website - Barb reports on new food waste pilot content, local champions section, Meili farm pics but still need more resources for educators & users, where stuff goes, where our garbage goes, tires, metal etc. What about Instagram & Facebook? Publicizing to schools needed. Casey mentions other town committees often have info tables at local events such as the recent Sharon Craft Fair. TRAC could do this. Anne suggests we assemble an info table kit for this purpose so have one prepped & ready to go.

8 - Other Business, comments from members & public - TRAC member update on Sharon website recently done by Anne, Barb will ck on Salisbury plus ck on Comm make-up, are we officially OK with 4 members, when do our TERMS end. Casey brings up ongoing bear issue in Sharon, what does Welsh & others do to secure dumpsters, need better solutions, Welsh is working on but is becoming a problem in our towns. Ed mentions sources for bear-proof residential garbage cans but Casey is referring to large dumpsters. Brian mentions to start thinking about online TS user registration discussion for next meeting.

9 - Adjourn - Barb B adjourned the meeting at 5:58 PM

Note: Next meeting sched for Weds Oct 19

Minutes recorded by Anne Saunders, TRAC Member, Sharon