

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

Weds Oct 19, 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 plus TS Mgr Brian Bartram

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

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

3 - Approve Minutes from Aug 17, 2022 - Moved, seconded, all in favor

4 - TRAC Member Terms Update - Barb is reappointed for Salisbury & Ed Reagan up next in 11/2024

5 - Manager's Report - a) TS Operations b) MIRA updates, concerns: Brian reports on MIRA first; what will MIRA do, not known yet, legislators still delaying. CT is not following its own guidelines right now & still no movement on landfills, new trash to energy plants, other. MIRA still contracted to operate until 2026, but after that what and limping along now.

On TS operations, too much noncompliance, lack of courtesy & claims of not knowing rules or can't find anyone to ask. More of this behavior than usual lately, is discouraging at times. On the other hand, the food waste pilot is on track & going very well with more and more residents becoming interested.

6 - Food Waste Program a) Need to do a progress report and future options discussion for affordable collection and hauling.

b) Also formulate next goal for restaurants & institutions, not there yet with CET or other compost facility, still need options and research on this.

7 - Webinars & Newsletters - Brian keeps us up to date & many are archived or have online reports, Brian often E's these to TRAC, Brian says NERC conference in Rocky Hill coming up, not going but will follow up on grants & other info for us

8 - Website - a) Main Street article was recently added, (Main Street Magazine), Brian & others were interviewed, good start on awareness. Other additions made to the LOCAL CHAMPIONS section.

b) Other topics, need to think about what to add in future, Casey says he's very happy with content so far.

c) Publicizing content follow-up in Lakeville Journal planned, Barbara will send. Brian will have more on operation hours & other info plus revamp and re-organization of parts of website by July is planned.

9 - Actionable Ideas for 2023 or earlier - Our food waste pilot going well but need to do more, 3 ideas from Barb discussed.

a) Campaign to curb single use coffee cups, incentivize, BYO or bring back & sanitize program, prob best is BYO or add a per cup charge, TS can do our own reusable cups perhaps in future as part of local campaign.

b) Plastic wrap collection, can we do it at TS in future, places such as Walmart, Target & Big Y have a large amount, we would not have enough to afford a recycling hauler just yet but could we possibly ask one of these places to help us, allow us to bring ours to them.

c) Haulers responsibilities discussed, including bear-proofing trash containers, better communication to users on CT recycling guidelines, ask haulers to distribute printed info from TS, better guideline enforcement procedures such as oops tags or similar, periodic check & notify customers not in compliance. Some communities have TS staffer to help haulers, can be problematic but perhaps doable.

d) Need update on TRAC policies and bylaws, Curtis says not pressing but needed at some point. Brian says TRAC does not have separate bylaws, is an advisory committee only but there is a Policies and Procedures document from 2013, a newer finalized one needed, good to update. Anne will look up info from her notes & docs on these meetings she attended in the past and send to Barb.

e) Need to work on food waste diversion for large generators in our area

10 - Other Business, comments from members & public - Barb's punchlist of next things, no other comments, she will E list which includes meeting with both first selectmen on future food waste diversion plans, a similar meeting involving state legislators on future of waste issues since incinerators going off-line soon, more waste reduction needed but not enough by itself. Website update on Brian's punchlist, Anne would like to explore glass separation, Brian says yes in future but not pressing since MIRA still takes it. Anne also has better SWAP SHOP signage & posted guidelines on her punchlist, things too messy and out of hand at times. Gentle persuasion stressed, no volunteers or other personal confrontation advised.

11 - Adjourn - Barb B adjourned the meeting at 5:45 PM

Note: Next meeting sched for Weds Dec 21

Minutes recorded by Anne Saunders, TRAC Member, Sharon