

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

Regular Meeting - Weds Feb 15, 2023 – by Zoom - 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, residents Karen Lundeen & Meg Szalewicz

1 - Meeting called to order by Barbara Bettigole at 5:02PM

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

3 - Approve Minutes from Dec 14, 2022 - Moved, seconded, all in favor

4 - CMMS & other materials fact sheets - Brian gives overview on CT Materials Mgmt Strategies (CMMS) updates, new SOLID WASTE PLAN for CT put forth by state & DEEP, are redoing plan to make CT more self-sufficient since both MIRA & waste to energy plants going away, 4 major parts to plan. Brian first asks why CT needs to be self-sufficient, can't we do regional or other, many old issues & problems with state in charge of all. Plus most of recent failures of CT solid waste handling are the fault of the state, never updated WTE plants, poor record in recent years on any follow-up. Other parts of plan include state mandated organics removal and PAYT (pay to throw) since WTE may no longer be viable. Brian also mentions that CT was never self-sufficient on most recycling since until recently sending all to China, also no longer possible.

Rest of TRAC polled on above. Barbara thinks self-sufficiency a noble goal, yes on state-mandated PAYT paired with food diversion as best overall waste reduction strategy. Casey agrees & feels same as Brian, what else can CT do, would become very competitive with other states if go to landfill solutions. Anne agrees PAYT & organics with any necessary state guidelines b/c state is not up to task of controlling all. All agree if regions can reduce enough so little left to go elsewhere, WTE, landfill or other & maybe regions can do much of this on-site on their own in future. Brian also mentions that some of the solid waste assessment fees under the state plan going to general funds, capturing funding for other than solid waste, very confusing on money mgmt. But most of all the states continued inaction is intolerable. Finally part of the state SW plan includes EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) necessary as well to reduce SW, Brian mentions the British Columbia model on packaging materials management has been a success & something similar would not change our day-to-day at TS but could reduce tipping fees in future. Barb ask if plastic film is included, not sure but the major change coming is much greater separation of recyclables & could include film. Brian mentions final concerns about the amount of post consumer plastics used by producers, certain amounts mandated & penalties involved, we are moving towards that but still difficulties meeting mandates. In general TRAC agrees with the CMSS plan with some additions/reservations.

5 - MIRA Contract Updated - MIRA under this new plan will cease to exist & be replaced by CWA (CT waste Authority). Existing permits & assets still in place but large revamp, new board & many logistics still up in the air, giant change in a short time says Brian, therefore need to think about what we can do in interim, Ed says a wait-and-see policy may be necessary.

6 - Online Payments for User Fees - Our town hall staffers, Emily, Tina, Joe along with our webmaster Michael and a TRAC member, probably Casey, need to all be involved to figure out the how and when of it all, Casey will follow up first with Emily and then move forward

7 - Food Waste Program - 4 gen items here, schools first since Karen L in attendance tonight, is working with Barb & CET (Center for Eco-Technology) to bring area schools into program, has lagged due to pandemic, Barb & Karen will re-initiate with cafeteria managers & school principals, both overwhelmed right now but other possibilities exist including afterschool student programs including science program initiatives. Karen will follow up, may be incremental right now, COVID still impacts this; It is a staggering amount tho as is recycling in the schools. Barb will follow up with goals & ideas for future local composting. Joanne Tabor has started a pilot at Noble, collecting food waste from cottagers, brings to TS now but working towards on-site composting. Lastly, is it time to move out of our pilot phase, what next on that?

8 - Glass Separation - On hold, Brian says still free til 2027 & not clear what will happen with glass aggregate companies in CT. Barb asks about process, contamination & other issues, we will keep checking.

9 - Coffee Cups Program Progress - Barb has made signs & talked to several local businesses including Provisions and Sweet William, signs on counters would be best, samples of her signs on screen share.

10 - Communication with customers of haulers - Still many recycling errors with hauler customers, Brian is preparing info to distribute.

** Meeting suddenly ended, Zoom went down, no one can get back in

** Email of Motion to adjourn early by Casey since most of agenda covered, was seconded, passed.

11 - Adjourn - by Email at 6:09 PM

Note: Early ending a Zoom issue, multiple meetings on same account were overlapping tonight, this caused first meeting to end, our final agenda item of adding a TRAC member, Karen Lundeen, for a total of 5 TRAC members was agreed to by Email for next mtg.

Note: Next meeting scheduled for Weds April 19th 2023 by Zoom

Minutes recorded by Anne Saunders, TRAC Member, Sharon