

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

Regular Meeting - Weds Apr 19, 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, new member Karen Lundeen plus TS Mgr Brian Bartram.

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

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

3 - Approve Minutes from Feb 15, 2023 - Moved, seconded, all in favor

4 - New TRAC Members - Welcoming new member Karen Lundeen from Salisbury tonight. Meg Szalewicz from Sharon interested in future, Casey may become next Sharon First Selectman & need to step down.

5 - CT Recyclers Coalition - Barbara & Brian attended, went over items including Food Waste, EPR, CMMS & upcoming MIRA closure, Brian says DEEP had little response to his queries, nothing new on MIRA closure, start of CMMS, landfill support & other monies to towns. Says many legislators consider MIRA done but legally not so, also some former MIRA work, data, expertise still usable, do not need to totally reinvent wheel on already started like EPR (extended producer responsibility) & other issues already in progress.

6 - Online User Fee Payments - Casey reports on talks with town staffers & our webmaster, can be done tho are challenges to work out including payment methods, bank account to use, resident status verification via creating logins, allowing uploads of info, doable but possibly more work for staffers. Tina and Emily have system down pat, do not want to add to workload. Plus configuring stickers for diff user types & sticker distribution. Casey also mentions ITEM 10 below, PAYT considerations or user fees in our tax base in future, still need sticker & proof of residence. Working on options. Karen asks if residents can still pay cash at town halls. Yes. Barb mentions online options may be preferred for our weekenders. Karen agrees. Casey mentions possibility of a soft roll-out later in year after first rush of new stickers using the existing methods.

7 - Food Waste Concerns - Barb explains WHAT NEXT ON FW flow chart & will Email a copy. Includes pursuing larger FW generators, at moment cheaper to throw in garbage b/c of small amount, how to expand, make more cost-effective, hauling & drop off options, limited pilot collections at other facilities, local contractors to take FW vs TS hauling options. Brian mentions our TS truck not always avail since also functions as the sander & other uses. Discussed relative costs moving forward on totes, trailers, staffing, possible grants, help from CET (Center for Eco-technology) on grant writing. Brian mentions USDA FW grant, goal to go from FW to compost, can do in conjunction with other nearby towns or other ways of reducing FW including PAYT options. Mentions historical community resistance to PAYT. Bringing in area schools not possible this year due to COVID, new principal & staff. Barb mentions that Indian Mtn School is using dehydrators. Karen includes composting in the Salisbury SOAR afterschool enrichment program. School programs for composting & recycling still have challenging contamination issues.

8 - Ongoing Concerns - Still pursuing glass separation, Brian says we may want to reconsider sooner if existing MIRA contracts on recyclables go completely, may need to reduce amt, other ongoing include single use containers, Oops tags for haulers, coffee shop progress, ice on roof at TS complaint to be followed up.

9 - Communication with customers of haulers - Oops tags needed plus more follow-up.

10 - New Focus - Phasing in more effective waste management via diff user fees, PAYT system with bags and other methods paired with FW reduction in future.

11 - Public Comment - Anne asks for definitions of ORT & SOAR in item 7, ORT is a term used by school cafeterias to indicate a morsel of food left from a meal hence an ORT Report. SOAR is an afterschool enrichment program, Seek Originate Aim Reach. Barb mentions research on aseptic packaging materials, how sorted & recycled, the paper is high-quality so is a market for it. Casey asks about Barb's compost purchase for residential use program. Drop off probably at highway department. There is a cost but is another possible grant item. Barb also mentions the upcoming composting seminar in Cornwall.

12 - Adjourn - Barb B adjourned meeting at 6:09 PM

Note: Next meeting scheduled for Weds Jun 21, 2023 by Zoom

Minutes recorded by Anne Saunders, TRAC Member, Sharon