

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

Regular Meeting - Weds Dec 20, 2023 - by Zoom - 5PM

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

TRAC Mems Present: Barbara Bettigole (chair), Anne Saunders, Meg Szalewicz, Ed Reagan, Karen Lundeen, new mem Paul Bacsik (Sharon) plus TS mgr Brian Bartram & John Brett, new on BOS from Sharon

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

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

3 - Approve Minutes from Oct 18, 2023 - Moved, seconded, all in favor

4 - Manager's Report - Brian reports on recent visit/tour of the TS by the Sharon Women's Club, more on later in mtg, also mentions the Jan 2025 deadline for food waste generators of greater than 500 pounds per week will no longer be exempt, must DIVERT. Reminder that dissolution of MIRA is looming, there is now an official MIRA Dissolution Board to assist. Brian has attended 2 meetings of the NW CT Council of governments (COG), which will also form a subcommittee, to assist, more info needed, still no real transition strategy. Barb asks about help from DEEP, especially info about large volume FW generators. Meg asks about contacting Maria Horn. Brian will be speaking to her shortly & mentions that our state senator has never responded to his Email queries.

5 - Food Waste Program - Barb says still a lot we can do but good progress so far.

A - Residential Households - We are still in a bit over 400 total

B - Businesses, schools, facilities and caterers - more difficult to contact but pursuing, ideas welcome. Paul L says Google for these in our area to get a list of caterers, he will work on this for next mtg. Karen reports on school wellness committees, we are progressing, schools very interested, have a faculty point person, Stephanie Beck on board. Black Rabbit FW pickups temporarily suspended. Barb mentions future possibility of 2 or more area schools collaborating on FW project.

C - Local options for hauling and composting (funding for research, equipment, staffing etc) Barb goes over the latest diversion reports for our pilot, all going well, JP Gifford may be coming on board, doing their own composting right now, Welsh Sanitation has been exploring costs on more effective separation, improper disposal by Welsh at TS continues to be a problem, must work on. Paul asked about on-site composting at TS. Brian goes over why we can't do this, P&Z in Salisbury and DEEP permits involved, has been researched before. Barb mentions town of Sharon which does leaf and brush collection, maybe a possibility in the future there. Paul also asks about anaerobic digestion and monetizing final product. Barbara give some history, McEnroe still our best option. Anne reviews some of our past discussions on anaerobic digestion etc. TS cannot take on, cost, permits, space, staff, training, final product and distribution all too difficult at present.

6 - Support for public outreach / education programs & projects, Conservation Committee of Sharon Women's & Salisbury Association - These 2 interested in helping with various efforts, including website content. Meg mentions the starting with children idea, assemblies and other project in the schools first. Barb mentions Amenia's recent REPAIR CAFE event, another possible project, repair items rather than discard. Also better litter campaigns needed in Salisbury. Other possibilities discussed including a swap event for larger items, can do online, Anne mention the BUY NOTHING CT Facebook site as possible template or others with photos, corkboard in swap shop can be used to publicize.

7 - Grant Proposals - Barb and Brian still working on a CET (Center for Eco- Technology) proposal letter for a possible FW support grant, looking for assistance from USDA as well but not much else right now, still looking, Barb has noted that other towns have grant access that we may be able to explore as well.

8- Other Business - None

9 - Public Comment - John Brett introduces himself, newly elected on the BOS in Sharon.

10 - Adjourn - Barb B adjourned meeting at 5:50PM

Note: Next meeting scheduled for Weds Feb 21, 2024, 5P by Zoom, new link for 2024 Meetings in 2024, Feb 21, April 17, June 19, Aug 21, Oct 16 & Dec 18

Minutes recorded by Anne Saunders, TRAC Member, Sharon