

Salisbury/Sharon Transfer Station Recycling Advisory Committee (TRAC) Minutes Regular Meeting - Weds August 16, 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, Casey Flanagan, Ed Reagan, Karen Lundeen, + TS mgr Brian Bartram & Nancy Berry from W Cornwall Conservation Comm, Meg Szalewicz cannot attend

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

2 - Approval of Agenda - Add missing word "town" to Item 5e, moved, seconded, all in favor

3 - Approve Minutes from June 21, 2023 - Moved, seconded, all in favor

4 - Manager's Report - TS car count data presented, food waste pilot stats / costs / # participating households, other items. FW costs have dropped dramatically, still greater than MSW but started at 7X MSW cost, now 2.5 X & falling as usage & volume increases. Data on 3 years monthly car counts, SSTS very busy. Town of Woodbury trash reduction flyer shown. Brian mentions contamination issues, recyclables as well as FW, must continue with outreach & signage. Also TS needs extra textile recycle bins as volume increases. Ups & downs in swap shop, inappropriate non-working items often left, perhaps more labeling & shelving in future, most issues not urgent yet. Brian mentioned 2 recent bin fires, one caused by fireworks dumped in trash, other unknown, perhaps a battery. Some users ignore signage, contamination in FW bins case in point, a few sometimes use bins even tho clearly marked as part of Food Waste Program for registered users ONLY.

5 - Food Waste Program - Barb has updated Selectmen on progress, close to 400 households plus Noble Horizons cottages & 2 restaurants. Karen & Bill Lundeen help with pickup. 398 gallons collected recently from Black Rabbit restaurant, very good diversion increase in one year. Discussed weight/ volume metrics for our totes & continuing trend on reduced cost. Casey says we continue to look for local places to take FW to reduce cost further. McEnroe still a future possibility. Casey asks about specific amt of FW needed to take cost down. Do we have any specific crunched numbers? Brian is working on & mentions the (Item 5e) draft proposal to expand our FW program, possible inclusion of nearby towns. A few have started their own program & Nancy from W Cornwall, here tonight, mentions the high school as well.

Further inclusion of businesses, institutions & restaurants currently billed by their respective towns discussed. Barb shows slides of Woodbury & Southbury trash reduction programs. Budgets & fees differ but similar collection methods. Programs in initial stages but growing, other towns willing to share info, method of giving out specific number of trash & FW bags per household is common & many have grant support. Barb will Email further details to TRAC. Plan is to keep learning from other towns & to interest larger businesses with free drop-off thereby reducing their MSW costs. Timeline to develop proposal needed plus ways to incentivize. Barb mentions examples from other areas such as revitalizing old buildings by offering buyers price incentives. All agree that PAYT (Pay As You Throw) programs that include FW diversion are greatest incentive for residential food & other waste reduction. Brian gave info on fees, stickers, tax based solutions from other towns including elimination of stickers. DEEP no longer offers grant support to develop but many towns developing on their own, need to include price per bag, method to distribute bags such as vending machine at TS or other places, hauler parameters, businesses with dumpsters etc.

Barb adds info on FW generator future legislation, by 2025 will require reduction, also increasing education on FW needed, not just compost but on overbuying perishables, improper storage & other FW reduction tips. Karen mentions possible school programs to increase community awareness via ORT reports, a school developed program to track each MORSEL of left over food & other programs

6 - Other Business - Casey requests info on above sent to TRAC plus check on SUSTAINABLE CT grants and resources

7 - Public Comment - Brian mentions we have 400 households to support expansion, many have insights & info to offer, also Sharon is a SUSTAINABLE CT member, Salisbury is not but could be with a bit of work.

8- Adjourn - Barb B adjourned meeting at 6PM

Note: Next meeting scheduled for Weds Oct 18, 2023, 5P by Zoom

Minutes recorded by Anne Saunders, TRAC Member, Sharon