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By Linda Amerighi at 8:25 am, Oct 24, 2023

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

Regular Meeting - Weds Oct 18, 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, Karen Lundeen, plus TS mgr Brian Bartram & Carol Flaton, resident from Sharon

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

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

3 - Approve Minutes from Aug 16, 2023 - Moved, seconded, all in favor

4 - Manager's Report

A - MIRA & status of Torrington TS - Brian attended recent meeting on MIRA dissolution, to be completed by 2025/26, state of CT takes over after that. Town contract still up in the air. Northwest COG will look into, 12 towns still using MIRA now, others have made other arrangements, need to explore options soon where will we take MSW etc.

B) - CT Recyclers Coalition (CRC) report from Brian and Meg - Meg & Brian both attended, some points covered include battery disposal and inherent fire hazards from batteries, recycled glass uses, many companies now, great road uses since not a petroleum product and not much effect from freezing and thawing, foamed glass uses growing plus more clean glass being recycled into new glass.

C - Glass separation potentially after MIRA contract terminates - Hopefully we are good till June 2027 while MIRA still takes all mixed recyclables. After that, decisions/options needed, plus when to start. Brian also mentioned some of his comments at CRC to governor and other participants including legislative committees to assist DEEP and to increase state of Connecticut capacity in general so as not to need out of state solutions, landfills, resources. Source reduction definitely needed but will not solve all.

5 - Food Waste Program

A - Requests to join program - requests to join our pilot program still coming in.

B - Impact of increased volume of FW coming in - see Brian's costs and other parameters charts, costs continuing to come down, way down from year one of pilot

C - New signage to deter contamination - still needed

D - Proposal to Selectman - Still working on FW proposal to towns, Curtis R says too many ifs, negatives & cost questions right now to bring in others, are on our own to come up with options such as the possibility of our own truck & driver, McEnroe and others are still interested in taking our FW in future. Grants for this are difficult in rural areas but Barb says other possibilities, we should come up with a draft proposal complete with costs. Barb, Brian & Curtis will look into, Brian mentioned some other grant and/or crowd funding options, first need to set goals & deadlines and should this be a line item in town budgets or other. Karen mentions the Woodbury program as a possible model to adopt, others as well but some are tax based, further research needed. Brian says need to first increase our pilot beyond the 400 households but towns not up for that yet mostly due to costs & other hardships. Gen consensus is these issues can be handled. Question from Carol on making it mandatory in future for all households that dispose FW, MUST come out of waste stream, towns not ready for that either, continue with voluntary is best.

E - Meeting with White Hart chef, manager & CET tech pus mtg with LaBonne's Market - Discussed this item first, other businesses that could join, these TWO maybe next as we continue moving forward on FW expansion. Barb said WH manager & chef hesitant at first but willing to try. So far we have Le Gamin & Black Rabbit participating. Barb also stressed that in 2025 the state exemption for commercial FW producers that are greater than 20 miles away from a FW facility will END so alternatives will be needed. Bears and other pests continue to be an issue for FW kept on site before transfer to a facility, something to think about soon.

F - Continued thanks to Karen & Bill Lundeen for Black Rabbit pickup - Report from Karen, 305 gallons collected in Sept, 5 gal buckets mostly full, doing pickups with some help from Brian and mostly consistent on amounts with rare private event and seasonal or weather variations, Karen is tracking it all.

6 - Other Business - Brian has had complaints about swap shop messiness, still too much user carelessness and inappropriate tossing, some discussion of increased signage, still trying is all we can do, possibly more on website, larger front sign, Anne S and others come almost daily to straighten up a bit and often speak politely with other users. Not much more to be done right now. Also some complains about pickers that resell, this is a non-issue for TS, actually relieves some of the burden so is fine.

7 - Public Comment - Carol had a MIRA question, how managing TS transitions, do they have any suggestions, can we ask them, a bit of discussion on what others are doing, who to ask and what about northwest COG towns. We are exploring all of these.

8- Adjourn - Barb B adjourned meeting at 6:03PM

Note: Next meeting scheduled for Weds Dec 20, 2023, 5P by Zoom

Minutes recorded by Anne Saunders, TRAC Member, Sharon