

Salisbury/Sharon Transfer Station Recycling Advisory Committee (TRAC)
Minutes of TRAC Regular Meeting of Feb 19, 2025, Zoom Meeting - 5 P

Present: Barbara Bettigole (chair), TRAC mems, Anne Saunders, Paul Bacsik, Karen Lundeen, Ed Reagan, Sarah Curtis, TS Manager Brian Bartram & guest Patrick Sullivan from Lakeville Journal

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

- 1 - **Meeting called to order** at 5:03 by Chair Barbara Bettigole
- 2 - **Approval of Agenda** - Moved, seconded, all in favor
- 3 - **Approval of minutes from Dec 18 meeting** - Moved, seconded, all in favor
- 4 - **Transfer Station Managers Report** - Brian reports that the northwest COG towns in CT (Council of governments) will assume control of the Torrington transfer station in July following dissolution of MIRA as planned with all current provisions til June 2027 at least. These towns, not any other gov't body will assume leadership, therefore other attempts to reduce that we have discussed like bottle redemption and a book box not so urgent right now.

- 5 - License Plate Scan vs Stickers & UBP (Unit Based Pricing) discussion - Brian explains TS cost to towns is all via sticker fee, regardless of amt of use right now & TS staff provided for in tax base, UBO will benefit some users and are various ways to do it. We partially do it now since users pay for demolitions box and other items like a fridge. Regarding license plate scan, Kent has tried PAYT with scan (pay as you throw) and is now mandating it, scans eliminates multiple stickers for extra cars & the need for a vinyl sticker placed on windshield which many users do not like. All other services would still be free, unlimited recyclables, swap shop, food waste pilot - all with license plate verification, takes time and effort to start but easily done, pricing on scan cameras is minimal and can use much of our existing system. Barb adds that PAYT has the greatest impact on reducing solid waste and now that large food waste producers must begin diverting to compost, even more will be reduced. Ideas needed of where to go in future if TRAC is supportive of adding PAYT options. Paul asks about PAYT with scanning, tho both are separate things, both to be considered going forward, will save money and small issues, like plate being blocked or users with rental cars can be handled at gate. Users will then pay for what they actually throw, cutting down MSW and improper throwing, would use prescribed bags of various sizes. In our community how much does it safe? Unknown, but we do have households throwing very large amounts. Barbara mentions FAIRNESS factor. Other towns report start up challenging but then works well, comparing PAYT to practice of turning thermostat down to pay less for heat or turning up if willing to pay more. Karen asked about plastic bag and film recycling, not discussed recently by TRAC, perhaps could be started in schools, right now only MEGA stores have inside collection boxes for this. TREX and other companies provide recycling into products, doing at TS not possible with contaminants and moisture. Anne comments on TRAC past discussions of same and suggests we post how-to info & list of store locations on our swap shop bulletin board.

- 6 - **MIRA Dissolution Update** - Brian already covered in Mgr's report.

- 7- **Food Waste Collection Update** - Barb reports that stores including LaBonne's are prepping for mandatory food waste separation and collection.

- 8 - **Food waste prevention week** - Educational materials on how to prevent will be available in schools and if TRAC members have ideas please pass on to Barb.

- 9 - **Advertising invite to attend TRAC meetings**- Tho we do not want meetings to become inundated, do want to make the public aware of the option, in town newsletters maybe, Paul mentions other town committees, tho very few attend, the optics of openness are positive.

- 10 - **TRAC contribution to town newsletters** - Towns have Okayed, can be brief meeting summary, recycling tip, news byte or other. Brian says both towns include TRAC meeting times in their newsletters. Perhaps a section in TS website for this as well, anyone who can help with

newsletter info, graphics or composition please contact Barb. Perhaps want to use a highlight box similar to what is sometimes done with extra space in the Lakeville Journal.

11 - Occasional staffed info table at TS - Want to repeat this occasionally during warmer months with what goes where info, what is recyclable etc. Plus add permanent info board. Karen said the table was very successful last time it was done.

12 - Other Business - Barb mentioned that local farmer Ben Freund would be judging a Food Waste essay contest, info has been Emailed to TRAC. Anne mentions further signage done on food exchange shelf in the swap shop has had good results. Users are appreciative of food exchange. Brian says both state grant applications, (MMI and Sustainable CT) are in progress and we should have some answers soon and other grants involving PAYT coming up soon.

13 - Public Comment - None

14 - Adjourn Meeting - Barbara adjourned meeting at 5:53P

Note: Next meeting scheduled for Weds Apr 16, 2025 at 5P by Zoom

Minutes recorded by Anne Saunders, TRAC Member, Sharon