

DRAFT
MINUTES OF THE RECYCLING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF
January 12, 2021

Members Present:

Don Stein, Barkhamsted
Ted Larson, Cornwall
Will Berry, Cornwall
Paul Collins, Goshen
Terri Christensen, Harwinton
Naomi Boccio, Litchfield
Denise Raap, Litchfield
Matthew Riiska, Norfolk
Debbie Angell, RRDD1
Brian Bartram, Sharon-Salisbury Transfer Station
Curtis Rand, Salisbury
Ray Drew, Torrington
Connie Manes

Others Present:

Richard Lynn, Darlene Krukar, Janell Mullen; NHCOG staff.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Curtis Rand at 1:04 p.m. on zoom.

Approval of Advisory Committee Minutes of February 12, 2020. Debbie Angell motioned to approve the minutes. Brian Bartram seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Update on MIRA and Municipal Tip Fees. Don Stein reported that the contract with SRT has been terminated. They are looking to find another contractor. The current facility will shut down in July 2022. MIRA will fulfill their contracts with the town through 2027 and waste will most likely be shipped out of state. MIRA is trying to set up a meeting with legislators to discuss options since legislative action will be needed to proceed. He stated that the tip fee has not been set yet but it will most likely be between \$95 and \$101. The cost of recycling is still going up and is about \$100 per ton now. He stated that MIRA has full 11 board members for the first time since he has been on the board which makes having a quorum for meetings easier. Single stream recycling may go away since people are putting the wrong things in it.

There was discussion on pay-as-you-go. Denise Raap stated that it would need to be mandated by the state in order for towns to be able to push it through. The consensus was that there needs to be more education on ways to reduce the waste stream. Discussion followed on having a regional recycling coordinator.

Vendor Services for HHW Collection Days in 2021. Rick Lynn stated that last year we went out to bid for a vendor and selected CARE Environmental because they were considerably cheaper than the other vendors. We have been disappointed with the service that CARE has provided in recent years and this past fall the COG received a "Notice of Levy" from the IRS stating that CARE has not been paying their taxes and they now owe the IRS over \$600,000

in back taxes. We were required to send payment for the October collection day directly to the IRS.

Rick stated that CARE's President came to the October collection day and they worked hard that day and they seem to be trying to improve their performance. We did change the way the collection day was handled because of Covid19 in that we did not look at the waste in each vehicle to determine volume but instead divided the total cost of the waste collected by the number of participants and this seemed to be a lot easier, and the cost was comparable. It was also suggested that people be giving a time slot when registering so that we don't have long lines in the morning and no one coming in the afternoon. Discussion followed on if we should terminate CARE's contract and go out to bid again. On a motion made by Naomi Boccio and seconded by Brian Bartram the RAC members unanimously agreed to recommend the termination of CARE's contract and to go out to bid using the new way of waste determination. Rick stated that he would draft a RFP and send it to RAC members for review.

Review of Draft Recommendations from DEEP's CCSMM Project. Brian Bartram discussed the draft recommendations from CCSMM . He stated that there were a lot of good ideas presented but it is up to the legislators to decide what is actually done. Curtis Rand pointed out that there is no step by step direction in the draft and that the same things keep getting proposed and nothing is done. Denise Raap stated that the state needs to give us ways to reduce trash. Curtis Rand inquired about the market for recycling items and Don Stein replied that they are experimenting on ways to use the recyclables.

Litchfield's Food Scrap Collection Program. Naomi Boccio stated that Litchfield is now picking up food scraps curbside. These food scraps will be mixed with leaves and be turned during the year to form compost. They have just started this program so she can't report on how well it is working yet but they are hopeful it will reduce the food scraps from their MSW. She stated that DEEP has not been particularly helpful with this initiative.

Curtis Rand stated that Salisbury did this a few years ago but they were getting forks and other things sent to the farm so it didn't work for them and they stopped.

Update by RAC Members on Local Recycling and MSW Activities and Issues. Matt Riiska asked if anyone has seen an increase in MSW due to Covid 19. Debbie Angell stated that at RRDD1 the MSW has doubled. Don Stein stated that at MIRA the overall MSW has decreased. Paul Collins stated that Goshen is working on education through articles in their Town Topics. Naomi Boccio said that she is looking into a machine that crushes Styrofoam into small blocks and that smoke detectors are a big problem. Brian Bartram said that they are looking into curbside pickup of items for composting. He will be attending a Product Stewardship meeting tomorrow and they will be discussing propane tanks from one pound to twenty pounds. They will also be looking at an EPA bill for tires. He then asked if the COG would consider a contribution to the Product Stewardship Institute. Rick Lynn asked that the PSI send the COG a letter requesting a contribution. Debbie Angell said that RRDD1 has a new website and they have 15 cameras on site. They are working on education and sending letters out to people. Terri Christensen said not much new is going on in Harwinton and that residents are always telling her that they don't compost because of the bears. Ray Drew said that he is involved with CCSMM and there is a lot to think about. He thinks that we should

explore the possibility of hiring a regional recycling coordinator since Torrington doesn't have anyone in that position. He thinks it would be great if the transfer station would expand to take food scraps. Ted Larson stated that Cornwall's MSW has increased since the town's population has increased dramatically since Covid.

Other Business as Raised by Members. Brian Bartram held up some posters on "What's In and What's Not" for recycling. He said that he is planning on putting these posters up in the transfer station near the recycling bins. He will rotate the signs so that he doesn't give too much information at one time. A thought is that the towns could purchase these signs and then rotate them among the towns with transfer stations.

Adjournment. On a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 2:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Krukar
NHCOG

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