



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK  
SELECTMEN'S OFFICE

BARRY O'NELL, CHAIRMAN  
VICTOR BENNI, VICE-CHAIR  
ROBERT SAMEK

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DIANE STOBER  
JAMES THERRIEN  
CARL P. FORTUNA JR., EX-OFFICIO

MEETING OF THE WASTE AND RECYCLING TASK FORCE  
MEETING MINUTES

Monday, July 11, 2022  
4:00 P.M.

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Therrien and Ms. Stober were present as was the First Selectman

II. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** - None

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** from April 23, 2022.

*O'NELL/THERRIEN*

*MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY*

IV. **BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD**

A. MIRA Update

Mr. Fortuna gave an update on MIRA, the Waste to Energy (WTE) plant closure, issues with the property and how MIRA's reserves will be used. He is attempting to spearhead a regional effort to discuss waste disposal.

B. Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management (CCSMM): Updates

C. Food scrap recycling program – Discussion and possible action on bulk purchase of Eco-Caddy.

D. Publicity/Social Media

E. Member comments/Old Business/New Business

The members discussed a variety of items. Mr. O'Neill wants to focus on what this task force can do and do well. Mr. Fortuna reminded the board that there is a budget for the task force and other funds can be accessed from the nips funding. Food scraps from the transfer station were discussed and how the most effective way to get rid of food scraps is to mix with leaf mulch. The COG is seeking a pilot locally for this. Barry asked for metrics on food scraps: How much per week, savings? Perhaps the public could be better inspired to compost like this if they knew what difference they were making. The biochar facility was discussed. We will do a tour in the fall. Batteries were discussed and how better we can recycle. Perhaps we should have a bin at the Saybrook Hardware/Walmart/Stop&Shop. Mr. Fortuna said he would speak with Melissa Lewis about transfer station fees and how they are broken out (tires, brush/metals). Mr. Therrien talked about getting back to his public access show. Mr. Fortuna gave a brief update on the transfer station re-design. Another idea that was discussed was plastic film recycling. Perhaps this can be done in conjunction with the schools and have a receptacle at Town Hall. Diane attended an Old Lyme meeting where Kim O'Rourke from Middletown spoke.

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She talked about glass recycling. She also said Middletown uses Blue Earth for composting. She thought having some community competition on recycling would bring greater awareness.

**F.** Next meeting date - TBD

**V. ADJOURNMENT** - Motion to adjourn at 5:05pm.

*O'NELL/STOBER*

*MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY*

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl P. Fortuna Jr.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Carl P. Fortuna Jr., First Selectman