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Tonya Hogan, TC

## DURHAM MIDDLEFIELD INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT ADVISORY BOARD

### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 30, 2025  
Middlefield Community Center

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by Chairman DelVecchio.

**Members present:** Ron Capozzi, Dom DelVecchio, Steven Koerber, Glenn McNamara, Frank Petrella, Brendan O'Connell, and Charles Zieminski

**Members absent:** Howard Weissberg

**Staff present:** Sean Piatek

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*Glenn McNamara made a motion, seconded by Ron Capozzi, to approve the agenda, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.*

### NEW BUSINESS

#### Site Manager's Report

Sean Piatek reported that, as of today, 3,005 stickers have been sold. Someone is at the gate at all times, stopping every person and turning them around if they do not have a sticker. Things have been relatively calm.

New signs have been posted at the site to delineate the disposal location of freon appliances and batteries.

Staff made a decision to lock the electronic container during business hours to prevent residents from sifting through electronics for precious metals and removing copper extension cords. Electronics will be left outside the container by residents and placed inside the container by staff.

Staff also informed residents that solar panels will not be recycled onsite. Take 2, our electronic recycler, has been accepting solar panel inverters as a recyclable item onsite.

Sean provided details on the recent container fire at the compactor and the immediate response by staff that mitigated any damage at the site. It was believed that hot ashes disposed at the compactor may have triggered the container fire. There was some discussion regarding some additional signage at the compactor to discourage future incidents. The volunteer fire

departments of Durham and Middlefield were also commended for their quick response and the extinguishing of the container fire. The site was closed for approximately 1.5 hours before operations resumed.

Sean also updated the board on the recent hire of a new driver, Jim Coe, that has prior experience driving roll offs and truck operations.

### **General Discussion – MSW Tip Fee and MIRA Agreement**

Dom DelVecchio indicated that MIRA coordinated a meeting with the shoreline communities delivering waste to the MIRA Essex transfer station to discuss the future operations of the Essex transfer station and the projected MSW tip fee for Fiscal year 25/26. MIRA has projected a MSW tip fee for FY25/26 at \$202 per ton. The towns and DMIAAB will have 60 days from the date that the MIRA board finalizes the tip fee, typically towards the end of February, to opt out of the current contract with MIRA that expires on June 30, 2027. The towns and DMIAAB are in the process of finalizing a draft RFP for bids for the disposal of MSW and recycling waste streams from surrounding permitted facilities within a 30 mile radius of the DMIAAB transfer station. The Town of Essex is also considering assuming the transferable permit for the operation of the Essex transfer station from MIRA and retaining a private contractor to continue the Town of Essex transfer station operations. The Town of Essex is waiting for the current operator of the transfer station, CWPM, to prepare a tip fee for the disposal of MSW and recyclables. All bids received from the RFP and CWPM will be reviewed by the towns and DMIAAB to determine the viability of the continued operation of transferring MSW and recyclables to the Essex Transfer Station. MIRA is currently not in a position to offer any subsidy for the disposal of MSW and recyclables due to recently passed State of CT legislation that restricts MIRA's ability to offer a subsidy. The intent of the legislation is to preserve MIRA's current fund balance for the cleanup of the former burn facility in Hartford's north end that was operated by MIRA. The DMIAAB budget for FY25/26 will be finalized once the tip fee for MSW and recyclables disposal has been established.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Composting Units (Update)**

Brendan shared an electronic link with all of the DMIAAB board members that summarized the current availability of various composting units. DMIAAB board members will review this information for discussion at the next board meeting.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Tom Starr, resident, shared some concerns with board members regarding the education and enforcement of DMIAAB recycling efforts and procedures. Tom noted it is important to educate the public to ensure that all the residents know the rules and regulations for the disposal of all waste streams at the transfer station. Dom DelVecchio agreed and suggested that the DMIAAB

board resurrect and update the old brochure that was developed several years ago that instructed the residents on the proper disposal of the various waste streams accepted and not accepted at the transfer station. The brochure also had a map of the transfer station site that designated the appropriate locations of the various containers onsite. Glen suggested that each resident should be handed a copy of the brochure when purchasing a new annual sticker each year. Tom also believes that by educating the residents on the costs associated with the disposal of each waste stream that this may encourage more residents to recycle materials knowing the overall cost savings associated with recycling. There was also some discussion regarding the enforcement of these rules and the vulnerability of staff members.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Steven Koerber made a motion, seconded by Charles Zieminski, to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2024 special meeting, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.*

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dom DeVecchio