



Town of West Boylston
140 Worcester Street, West Boylston, Massachusetts 01583

Solid Waste Advisory Team (SWAT) Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2020, 1:30 PM, Town Hall Meeting Room

Members Present: Julianne deRivera - Chair, Norma Chanis, Duane Henry

Members NOT Present: Barur Rajeshkumar, Elise Wellington

The meeting began at 1:30 PM.

Minutes: Motion to pass the Minutes of the meeting held December 12, 2019 was made by Henry, seconded by Chanis, and passed.

Trash Contracts Expiration:

A general discussion was held on our upcoming trash contracts. Chanis reported that Lucier had found a more current version of the Northboro RFP for making West Boylston (W.B.) specific adjustments. Chanis mentioned Lucier sent out the RFP to E.L. Harvey, Casella, and others. Henry reported that he and Wellington had responded to Lucier's request to SWAT to meet with her on January 2, 2020 re the RFP. (No minutes of this meeting were taken as a SWAT quorum was not present.) They agreed not to include toters in the RFP because of their higher rates of contamination, costs of replacement, and concerns about the ability of the elderly to manage these large toters. The RFP will include PAYT bags and Single Stream recyclables in bins. The contractor will be encouraged to leave a sticker notifying customers of improper trash or recyclables at the curb. Repeated offenses will result in not picking up the offending trash or recyclable container. According to Chanis, Lucier removed payment rates for the collectors as these are not required to be in the contract.

Pink Bag Program for Recycling Textiles and Small Household Items:

No further data from the month of December or January was available concerning pounds of textiles picked up. The unfortunate occurrence last month where a few pink bags were mistakenly picked up by a new trash collector was remedied. No further episodes have occurred.

City Compost: City Compost (C.C.) has not contacted SWAT since their presentation at our December 12th meeting. Chanis had reached out earlier to C.C. to involve it in the "Taste of West Boylston," so that Adam Jankauskas, Operational Manager of C.C., could develop a working relationship with the restaurants in town to take their waste. Chanis stated that C.C. is taking the compost waste from the Wachusett Recycling Center. Henry feels that it would be easier to move the town toward composting by starting with seasonal pick-up of leaves, grass cuttings, and Christmas trees. He will bring the C.C. handouts to the landscaping companies that manage the Angell Brook housing. Chanis will also work at

having C.C. pick up compost collected at any West Boylston celebration events. SWAT can explain how to sort using the 3 different containers for trash, recyclables, and compostables. deRivera is hopeful that she can work with the new Superintendent of West Boylston schools starting in the fall of 2020 to begin a composting program for the elementary and middle/high schools

FY 2019 Trash/Recycling Spreadsheet:

We then focused on the Trash/Recycling numbers needed to complete SWAT's FY 2019 Spreadsheet. Chanis will be meeting with Keri at the DPW to obtain the total cost figure incurred by the town for PAYT bags manufactured in FY2019. Wellington had noticed that there were no bag cost figures after November 2018, which meant that there were no bags purchased by the town for the second half of that fiscal year, which seemed unlikely.

Sustainability Group at the Library:

Chanis has started this group and reported that it meets monthly, every 2nd Friday at the library from 1 - 2 pm. Topics discussed range from clean/green cleaning products, local sources of fresh produce, useful websites, and green living. At their third meeting, a middle school student representative from "Green Thumb" visited. Chanis will also be meeting with another school-based group, "Green Living" today.

Next Meeting: SWAT will meet next on April 9, 2020 at 1:30 pm at Town Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm.

Submitted by

Julianne deRivera, Chair SWAT