



MEETING MINUTES

140 Worcester Street, West Boylston, Massachusetts 01583

In accordance with the provisions of MGL 30A §§ 18-25

Solid Waste Advisory Team (SWAT)	05-24-19
Board / Committee Name	Date of Notice
Town Hall	Selectmen's Office
Meeting Place	Conference Room Number or Location
May 28, 2019, 9:30 AM	
Date / Time of Meeting	Clerk or Board Member Signature
Meeting CANCELLED or POSTPONED to:	Date of Cancellation or Postponement

Present: Town Administrator Nancy Lucier; SWAT Members Norma Chanis, Duane Henry, Barur Rajeshkumar, and Elise Wellington; interim Town DPW Director Gary Kellaheer

Guests Present: Stephen Lisaukas, Vice-president of Government Affairs and Regional Vice-president of Municipal Partnerships at WasteZero.

The meeting began at 9:30 AM with introductions of those present. At the invitation of Norma Chanis, Stephen Lisaukas, explained WasteZero's "Pink Bag" program. This program is being used to recycle mainly textiles in pink, plastic bags supplied by WasteZero. Over one million people in Massachusetts municipalities, including Grafton and Framingham, are already recycling through this new program. Shrewsbury will start the program on July 22nd and Worcester expects to follow soon.

WasteZero charges the town and its residents nothing for these bags or for operating this program. Collection of the pink bags curbside occurs on the same day that the town's recyclables are collected, starting at 7:30 AM. WasteZero contracts with Simple Recycling to do this collection. For each pink bag put out for collection, its driver will leave a new bag, secured to the house or some other item (so that it will not blow away). If a resident wants more bags, the resident must simply call its Call Center, whose number is listed on the pink bag. It was suggested that additional pink bags could also be left at our DPW, Senior Center, Town Hall, etc.

To get the program started, WasteZero will send every resident in town a large postcard explaining the program and two (free) pink bags two weeks before launching the program. This post card will explain what may be recycled via this pink bag, such as clothes, blankets, pillows, sleeping bags, curtains, hats, and shoes. The program will also accept small electrical items, such as lamps, hair dryers, irons, toasters, and radios. Additional small items that are acceptable include mirrors, pictures, tools, glasses, pots and pans, etc. (It was later felt by the Selectmen that all acceptable items should be mentioned on educational info.)

Mr. Lisaukas explained the benefits of the pink bag recycling program: Textiles make up 8% of our municipal solid waste in Massachusetts, a significant amount, but 85% of textiles get discarded rather than recycled. Disposal of these textiles is costing the town about \$800 in trash disposal fees. (They are not allowed in our present curbside, recycling program.) Sometimes they are mistakenly put in the recycling bin and contaminate the recyclables, adding to our contamination problems. These textiles could be recycled into insulation if collected by Simple Recycling, and some of the pink bag items could be exported for re-use.

In addition, Mr. Lisaukas said that our town will receive \$20/ton of textiles collected by Simple Recyclables. He passed out an excellent brochure, "WasteZero: Save Money. Reduce Waste," which showed that this income would amount to about \$240 in revenue. By avoiding the disposal costs of textiles (\$800), the total savings to the town would be about \$1,140/year, and the town would incur no costs for the program.

When asked what problems had occurred in other towns with the pink bag program, Mrs. Lisaukas said that the one problem encountered was some residents put out their pink bag after the 7:30 AM deadline, not realizing that the Simple Recycling collector could do the recycling route much faster than the collector of regular recyclables (only 2 – 3 % of residents put out textiles weekly, so there's much less for the Simple Recycling collector to collect.) In such cases, Simple Recycling can come the next day to collect the pink bag that was put out too late.

Many questions were asked of Mr. Lisaukas and all were answered with satisfactory responses and information. Mr. Lisaukas agreed to appear before the Board of Selectmen to present the "pink bag program" for their consideration. (This occurred on May 31st. At this presentation by Mr. Lisaukas, which Chanis and Wellington attended, Chanis mentioned that she had contacted Grafton and Framingham re their pink bag program and they had given her glowing reviews. The BOS approved going ahead [for the upcoming Fiscal Year ?] with this program, with SWAT's assistance. Mr. Lisaukas will get a draft contract to the BOS soon).

Respectfully submitted,

Elise Wellington
SWAT Member