

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

Solid Waste Advisory Team (SWAT) Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2019
1:30 PM
Town Hall Meeting Room

Members Present: Elise Wellington, Duane Henry, Julianne deRivera, Barur Rajeshkumar, Interim Town Administrator Nancy Lucier

Members Absent: Norma Chanis,

Meeting began at 1:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Wellington motioned to approve minutes from February 14, 2019; Henry seconded and motion passed.

SWAT FY 2018 Annual Report: deRivera summarized SWAT's FY 2018 Annual Report, which she and Wellington had drafted. She motioned approval, Henry seconded, and motion passed.

DPW Director: Lucier announced that Gary Kelliher is working part time as West Boylston's Interim DPW Director. He retired as DPW Director from Sturbridge. SWAT members recognized the value of the past DPW director in obtaining trash and recycling figures for our Spreadsheet. Lucier said she would be able to assist SWAT in the future in obtaining this information. Lucier also announced that Republic's (??) Mike Szczepan is now working for trash hauler E.L Harvey, which may bid for our town's trash contract in 2020. Wellington asked where our trash is now going since the Casella Landfill in Southbridge closed 4 months ago. deRivera will contact Paul Degnan at Casella to inquire.

Proposed Composting at West Boylston schools: deRivera related the saga of her emails with Elizabeth Schaper, Superintendent of WB Schools and Adam, CEO of City Composting. SWAT ultimately agreed that Adam should present to SWAT first and also have material that the Schaper could review, including a list/spreadsheet of other schools he serves so that Schaper could contact them to see if they are satisfied with his service. In addition, deRivera will call the DEP to obtain a list of other contractors who compost for schools in MA.

deRivera reviewed the content of the video sent from DEP showing students and janitors in a school sorting their school lunches into different bins for composting and recycling (liquids, food solids, paper/cans, and finally trash). SWAT agreed it would be easier but unlikely that the school's food compost could be brought to the local pig farm or that the town would ever consider opening a town composting site on Laurel St.

Curbside 'Pink Bag' textile pick-up program: Rajeshkumar said that the Pink Bag program was free for residents because it is a for-profit company. It is already being used in several MA towns, such as Grafton and Shrewsbury. Lucier will get a demo pink bag, which SWAT can show can use as it presents this program at Town Meeting. deRivera will call the Pink Bag Company (866 835 5068) for more information.

Recycling Education projects – Reducing Recycling Contaminants: Lucier has already started a town recycling campaign by using the Town's electric sign for pithy recycling advice, which will be changed every month. The first message was to clean out your food containers before placing them in your recycling bin. SWAT was pleased with its informative article in 'The Item' from March 29, 2019, entitled, "Reducing recycling contaminants is goal of West Boylston Team." Lucier updated SWAT's web page with educational information 'What to do with...' She also presented the data from Casella's recycling audit to the BOS which 'started a lively discussion...' SWAT agreed that it would be interesting to do another audit in a year to assess any reduction in contamination rates as town citizens become more informed. Rajeshkumar will

encourage the BOS to consider a **plastic bag ban** 'as the time is right now.' SWAT also agreed that WB should consider a **ban on styrofoam** like in Shrewsbury. Henry has a contact at Dixie Co., whom he will call, who might be able to shed light on replacing styrofoam with paper products from Dixie.

SWAT's presentation at Town Meeting: We agreed to first show a slide with the results of the contamination audit of our recyclables and then explain each of the top 5 contaminants in recycling. Next, we can show a slide from 'RecycleSmartMA.org,' followed by an explanation of the Pink Bag program. And, lastly announcing that there are plenty of free recycling bins at the DPW, some of which will be brought to Town Meeting.

Earth Day Clean-up April 27th: Lucier explained the interactive town map where folks can sign up for an area to clean up. When they show up at the Town Hall that morning, they will receive a goodie bag and pick-up device. Later, after the clean-up, lunch will be provided by 'the Mill,' 'Steve's Pizza,' and Kate's Thai food. Gelato desserts will be served outside. 'Recess' admission bracelets will also be handed out.

Toter Question: A town resident emailed a question in December 2018, to the DPW asking why the town doesn't use toters instead of PAYT bags. Wellington drafted a response on Dec. 20, 2018. SWAT agreed to send this response with an apology for lateness.

Next Meeting: It was agreed that our next meeting will be June 13, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Julianne deRivera
SWAT Chair