



## Town of West Boylston

40 Worcester Street, West Boylston, Massachusetts 01583

# Solid Waste Advisory Team Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2017

3:30 PM

Town Hall Meeting Room

Members Present: Julianne DeRivera, Norma Chanis, Duane Henry, Barur Rajeshkumar, Elise Wellington, DPW Director Vernon Jackson - ex officio

Members Absent: None

Chairman DeRivera opened the meeting at 3:30 PM.

**MINUTES:** Henry moved approval of SWAT's August 3, 2017 meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Rajeshkumar and approved by all members, except Rajeshkumar, who abstained as he was not present at this meeting.

### OLD BUSINESS:

#### Educational Efforts:

**Video Promoting Recycling on Local Cable TV:** PEG Director Brittany Blaney-Anderson emailed SWAT that staff was still being hired, so no progress has been made on getting or creating videos for the local cable TV station. Chanis reported that she had emailed Blaney-Anderson on how to contact DEP's Irene Congdon, as promised. This email contained educational videos that could be viewed by clicking on an icon. Chanis agreed to draft something for her to use on our local cable Channels (193 and 194).

**Other Educational Efforts:** Rajeshkumar felt that the best way to promote town recycling was to educate children at the elementary school. DeRivera pointed out that the state DEP has a "Green Team" program that the Edwards Elementary School used to participate in, and asked Rajeshkumar if he would be willing to approach the school to see if they would resume participation in this program, but he declined. She later agreed to do so. Henry commented that it is difficult for new residents, like himself, to know about the Wachusett Watershed Recycling Center in town and where to recycle difficult items. He agreed to write an article for the newspapers about where to recycle leaves, wood, and other items that cannot be put out for our curbside trash collection. He will email his draft to SWAT members before submitting it.

## NEW BUSINESS:

Trash/Recycling Spreadsheet for Fiscal Year 2017: Wellington had completed SWAT's Trash/Recycling Spreadsheet for FY2017 and emailed it to SWAT members, as well as to the Town Administrator, on 9/11/17. Her commentary at that time noted that FY 2017 was better than FY 2016. Trash tonnage went down (4.5%), disposal costs went down (4.2%). Recycling tonnage was up (6%). Bag fee revenue was up (3.7%). The big picture showed that the net cost of our trash and recycling program had decreased by \$10,326, or 4.3% compared to the prior Fiscal Year - great news.

DPW Director Jackson brought in a "reworked" edition of the "final" version of SWAT's FY 2017 Spreadsheet (attached) that Wellington had emailed to committee members (mentioned above). In it, he revised some of the figures Wellington had received from the DPW earlier and filled in many of the lines that the DPW had always left blank in prior years. This "reworked" and more complete picture of the town's trash and recycling program is attached. It confirms that our recycling rate went up from 30% in FY16 to 32.36% in FY17. He will continue to work on getting an exact, updated figure for the number of households served.

Bag Fee: As requested, Jackson brought 3 possible scenarios for changing the bag fee. The first kept our bag fee the same as now (50 cents for the small bag and \$1 for the large bag) - these fees are among the lowest of the many Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) communities in Central MA. The second scenario upped the small bag fee to \$.75 and the large bag fee to \$1.50. The third scenario upped the small bag fee to \$1 and the large bag fee to \$2. Under the first scenario, the net cost of the trash/recycling program to the town would be \$223,940. Under the second scenario, it would be \$149,090. Under the third, it would be \$74,240. Discussion ensued with Chanis favoring Lunenburg's system which charges less per gal. for the small bags than the large bags. This encourages residents to use the small bags, resulting in less trash/household. She reported Irene Congdon favored the third option. Rajeshkumar warned that with residents now having the costs of possibly two new public buildings (Police Station and Sr. Center), they may oppose any bag fee increase. But, Henry predicted that trash costs will probably be going up with Casella closing its landfill in Southbridge, so now may be the time to prepare for the future by upping the bag fee.

Meeting with Selectmen: Following SWAT's request, the Town Administrator has scheduled SWAT to report to the Board of Selectmen on November 1<sup>st</sup>. SWAT will present its FY 2017 Spreadsheet results to them, as well as its research on what other PAYT towns are charging for their bag fee and SWAT's recommendation. Rajeshkumar reiterated Wellington's earlier suggestion that SWAT also present what it actually costs the Town to pick up just one bag of trash, a number Jackson computed as an average of \$2.20/bag.

Natick's Pink Bag Program: SWAT received a 9/21/17 email from Town Administrative Assistant Nancy Lucier re a news report on Natick's Pink Bag Program. Here, a private contractor picks up textiles/clothes from residents' homes (at no cost to the town) and the town gets \$20 for each ton of material collected. In response to this email, Chanis is looking into this to see if this company would provide this service in central MA.

**NEXT MEETING:** The Board agreed to meet next on October 19 at 3:30 P.M.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** At 4:45 PM, Wellington made motion to adjourn, seconded by Chanis. Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by,

Elise Wellington, Secretary Pro Tem

# DPW Director Vernon Jackson's Reworked Spreadsheet 9/21/17

WEST BOYLSTON TRASH PROGRAM				
TONS, COSTS, RECYCLING RATE				
(highlighted lines to be completed by DPW)			FISCAL YEAR 2016	FISCAL YEAR 2017
			July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016	July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017
TRASH (TONS)	A		1,474	1,407
TRASH DISPOSAL COST (\$/TON)	B		\$66.52 - \$66	\$66.37
TOTAL TRASH DISPOSAL COST	C=AxB		\$97,595	\$93,362.28
RECYCLABLES (TONS)	D		635	673
RECYCLABLES DISPOSAL COST (\$/TON)	E		0	\$0.00
TOTAL RECYCLABLES DISPOSAL COST	F=DxE		0	\$0.00
TOTAL SOLID WASTE (TONS)	G=A+D		2,110	2,080
TOTAL SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL COST	H=C+F		\$97,595	\$93,525
RECYCLING RATE	D/G		30.00%	32.36%
CURBSIDE COLLECTION COST	I		\$241,845	\$243,896.00
NUMBER HOUSEHOLDS SERVED	J		2,200	2,200
NUMBER 15 GAL BAG CASES SOLD	K			533
SELLING PRICE PER 15 GAL BAG CASE	L			100
COST TO TOWN PER 15 GAL BAG CASE	M			36.46
TOTAL 15 GAL BAG REVENUE	N=KxL			\$53,300.00
TOTAL 15 GAL BAG COST	O=KxM			\$19,433
NUMBER 33 GAL BAG CASES SOLD	P			482
SELLING PRICE PER 33 GAL BAG CASE	Q			200.00
COST TO TOWN PER 33 GAL BAG CASE	R			54.23
TOTAL 33 GAL BAG REVENUE	S=PxQ			\$96,400.00
TOTAL 33 GAL BAG COST	T=PxR			\$26,139
TOTAL BAG FEE REVENUE	U=N+S		\$136,200	\$149,700
TOTAL BAG COST	V=O+T		\$39,586	\$36,219
NET BAG FEE REVENUE	U-V		\$96,614	\$113,481
TOTAL PROGRAM COST	W=H++V		\$379,026	\$373,640.00
TOTAL PROGRAM REVENUE	U		\$136,200	\$149,700.00
NET PROGRAM COST	X=W-U		\$242,826	\$223,940
NET PROGRAM COST PER HOUSEHOLD	X/J		\$110	\$101.79
TRASH TONS PER HOUSEHOLD	A/J		0.67	0.64