** Town of West Boylston**

140 Worcester Street, West Boylston, Massachusetts 01583

**Solid Waste Advisory Team (SWAT)**

**Meeting Minutes**

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| **April 12, 2018 – 3 PM****Town Hall Meeting Room** |  |
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| **Members Present: Julianne deRivera, Norma Chanis, Duane Henry, Elise Wellington** |  |
| **Members NOT Present: Barur Rajeshkumar** |  |
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| **Chairman deRivera opened the meeting at 3 PM.**  |  |
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**Approval of Previous Minutes**: Wellington moved approval of SWAT's February 8, 2018 meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Henry and approved by all members.

**DEP Trash/Recycling Grant Application**- Jackson reviewed the process for West Boylston (WB) to receive this DEP grant. Chanis explained the point system used for grant money; WB has met the 8 point cutoff. Apparently, there is no stipulation for how the grant money be spent or even that it all be spent in the grant year. Ideas generated for grant uses included removal of old CRT TV's behind the DPW station, educational flyers covering recycling information for the town, support to the Wachusett Regional Recycling Center, hiring an enforcement person to work with Allied Waste, or Public Service Announcements concerning changes in the trash curbside pick-up schedules due to inclement weather.

**Earth Day and Town wide Clean-up Day** tentatively scheduled for September 2018. deRivera and Wellington voiced their disappointment that the same people are always picking up after those who litter and that little is done to prevent litter. The failure of the Updated Bottle Bill to pass means more litter of bottles and cans. The lack of consequences for littering (fines are never instituted) perpetuate the problem. SWAT agreed that the town should work in conjunction with the schools, local churches, and Scouts. SWAT wondered what kind of enticement would get local businesses to help clean up as well. Jackson volunteered to speak to Wal-Mart about cleaning up the land behind their store. Chanis volunteered to be the SWAT liaison to the town's ad hoc clean up committee. DeRivera and Henry will be available as alternates.

**Spring Clean-up news article** will be written by Henry and include operating hours for the WB landfill, tips on where to recycle textiles/TV's/out grown bicycles/plastic bags.

**Trash Contract Renewal** discussed; Henry promoted the idea of leverage towns would have knowing the rates of their neighbors' for trash/recycling (according to Wellington, towns similar to us include Worcester, Shrewsbury, Grafton, and Northboro). Chanis is in a position to review copies of the participating towns in the Wachusett Regional Recycling Center trash contracts; e.g., what they pay for disposal costs. Paxton, Princeton, Boylston, and Rutland all have private haulers that residents pay for.

**Educational efforts** have stalled out presently. deRivera met with WB Middle/High School Principal Chris Fournier last month and sent in a proposal to work with a high school teacher and their students to make an educational video for the town's local cable channel. A follow-up meeting will need to happen.

**Plastic Bag Ban** option discussed. Chanis noted 'a lot of negative chatter' on WB's Facebook page about it. Apparently, plastic bags are cheaper than paper so small businesses object to banning plastic bags. Also, the ban would be hard to enforce.

**Contamination issues** continue to be a problem. There are 2 major types: dirty items in the recycling bins (unclean peanut butter jars or greasy pizza boxes for example) and non-recyclable items in the recycling bins (i.e., drinking glasses are not recyclable because their components are unknown versus glass jars which are recyclable; 'hard plastic' toys are not recyclable in a bin either).

**Upcoming Town Meeting** on May 21st SWAT presentation discussed; we agreed to give a brief overview of our numbers and to include some recycling tips.

**Next meeting**: SWAT agreed to meet on June 14, 2018 at 3pm.

**Adjournment**: At 4:15 p.m., deRivera made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Henry. Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by,

Julianne deRivera, Chair

SWAT