

SWAT zoom meeting- August 13, 2020

Draft minutes

Present: Norma Chanis, Julianne deRivera, Duane Henry, Nancy Lucier (Town Administrator), Barur Rajeshkumar, guest town resident Patrick McGreal

The meeting began at 1:30pm

Chanis motions, Henry seconds approval of SWAT minutes from June 11, 2020. The minutes were passed unanimously.

deRivera acknowledged the resignation of Elise Wellington; original member of SWAT. All agreed Wellington would be missed and that she had contributed greatly to the success of SWAT.

Lucier introduced McGreal who explained that he and his wife have been residents for over 10 years. He works for Sales Force, a company that pays their employees for up to 7 days of community service. McGreal was keen on helping out with our town wide clean up scheduled for October 3rd from 9am thru 12 noon, rain or shine, as co-chair with Chanis. Lucier explained the particulars: Republic would leave a dumpster at the DPW for the week proceeding so town folk who pick before that date can dump their bags there. Also, Lucier announced launching the volunteers at the Town Hall as was done before- providing them with goodie bags (snacks, water bottles), T-shirts, reflective vests (donated by Republic), and gloves. There will be another interactive town map from the DCR to coordinate areas needing cleaning. The senior center offered their site for the post-event gathering; a possible bar-b-que or possibly buffet of food donated from last year's vendors (the Mill, Kate Boston, Steve's Pizza, and/or Frozone). All this is contingent on the degree of opening allowed due to the pandemic-ie., no more than 50 participants, wearing face masks and socially distancing. Lucier will send out announcements to the town "Team Up to Clean Up."

A general discussion was had on our upcoming trash contracts. Lucier reported that Casella's (disposal) contract expires January 2021 but will be renewed for another 5 years in all probability. Republic agreed to meet with SWAT at their next meeting in October. Chanis will compose a list of hard to recycle items (eg., waxed cartons) to clarify Republic's stance. Republic will also be able to tell SWAT what they see are concerns with our town. Lucier reported being pleased to be working with the Republic outreach representative, Dan Higgins, who was accessible and helpful. There will continue to be only be PAYT bags and Single Stream recyclables in bins; no toters as they encouraged increased rates of contamination. Also, Republic will also be able to leave a sticker notifying the customer of improper trash or

recyclable curb placement. Repeated offenses will result in not picking up the offending trash or recyclable container.

The Pink Bag Program was discussed next. Due to the unforeseen circumstances from the Covid 19 Pandemic, the Pink Bag Program was suspended from approximately March 20th thru May 20th. And, since it has resumed, however, there will no longer be any cashback of 1 cent per pound of textiles/small appliances. Lucier noted that on the 15th of every month, an average of \$74 had been collected by the town. Our monthly average is between 5000 and 11000 pounds collected and thus diverted from the landfill or incinerator.

Chanis spoke to the City Compost issue; Chanis has decided that Adam Jankaukas, Operational Manager of CC, is not reliable or appropriate as a working partner due to his questionable practices. And, he is therefore no longer servicing the Wachusett Recycling Center (taking their compost waste). Thus, Chanis will work towards a relationship with Black Earth Composting. deRivera is not hopeful that West Boylston schools will be able to focus on any kind of composting program for the elementary and middle/high schools this year due the extra difficulty posed by the pandemic.

We then focused on the Trash/Recycling numbers on SWAT's FY 2019 spreadsheet. Wellington had difficulty working with Courtney at Waste Zero. Apparently, Waste Zero started combining the figures of 'cost of manufacturing and distributing' bags to WB and the figures of the revenue from selling of the trash bags, so that WB was only getting the net figure. Lucier agreed to request separating these figures.

Lucier confirmed that WB still had a temporary DWP head and that there were only 4 DWP workers working (2 were out on medical leave). She is still interviewing potential candidates.

Next Meeting: SWAT will meet October 8, 2020 at 1:30p

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Submitted by
Julianne deRivera, Chair SWAT