

SWAT zoom meeting minutes - December 10, 2020

Present: Norma Chanis, Julianne deRivera, Duane Henry, Nancy Lucier (Town Administrator)

Absent: Barur Rajeshkumar

The meeting began at 12:00pm

Henry motions, Chanis seconds approval of SWAT minutes from October 8, 2020. The minutes were passed unanimously.

deRivera had some follow up questions for Republic representative, Brian Van Dam, from our last SWAT meeting: what % of WB trash is sent to the incinerator versus what % is sent to out-of-state landfills. Also, why would milk or juice cartons not be recyclable because of being classified 'sterile?' Lastly, from our former SWAT member, Elise Wellington, what % of WB glass picked up curbside is recycled back into glass, versus insulation, versus aggregate, versus landfill cover, versus landfill. Lucier will forward those questions on to Republic. Chanis noted that since the only bottle manufacturer in MA (located in Milford) shut down a few years back, there is no place for glass to be recycled. Also, because glass is so heavy it is expensive to truck. It also appears that aluminium cans have replaced glass in many cases like for soda or beer.

Lucier reported on the Pink Bag Program; WB consistently averages 6-7,000 lbs of textiles per month (11,000 was the highest, and 3,000 was the lowest). Simple Recycle is still picking up the bags.

Chanis noted that some of the towns included in the Wachusett Regional Recycling Center are interested in working with local composting companies for some seasonal project to be determined upcoming. Chanis will email Lucier the information that will be posted on the SWAT and DPW web pages for those WB citizens interested in composting.

We then focused on the Trash/Recycling numbers on SWAT's FY 2020 spreadsheet. deRivera had a list of questions concerning the numbers needed from the DPW, such as the total tonnage of trash, the total tonnage of recyclables, number of households served. Unfortunately, since July 1, 2020 recycled curbside pick up is no longer free but costs \$85.99 per ton.

Miscellaneous items were discussed: deRivera reached out to a new citizen in town (Jan F.) referred by Wellington who politely declined a full commitment but did agree to volunteer on any specific projects. Lucier had no further updates on the nip bottle bill passage. deRivera said

that the WHOC inmates have not been coming to town to pick up litter as they had pre-pandemic. Lucier also was hoping to have the BOS write a letter of support for the Big Brands either paying for the recycling of their products or for more earth-friendly packaging.

Next Meeting: SWAT will meet February 11, 2021 at 1:00p

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 pm.

Submitted by
Julianne deRivera, Chair SWAT