

SWAT zoom meeting minutes - October 14, 2021

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

The meeting began at 1: 15 pm

Henry motions, Chanis seconds approval of SWAT minutes from April 8, 2021. The minutes were passed unanimously.

Lucier wonders if SWAT would consider adding members since Barur Rajeshkumar is no longer a member (confirmed by contacting Raj). Possibilities discussed include interested town citizens, WB school students as members if a minimum of 18 years of age or as guests, Scout members as guests or working on special projects with SWAT (in addition to their usual participation in the town wide clean up). deRivera will talk to the science teacher at WBHS about their potential participation.

Lucier asked Chanis if the pounds of donated textiles in the Planet Aid bins could be counted and added to the town's DEP report for extra bonus points. Chanis said yes.

Lucier was disappointed that Simple Recycling seemed to renege on their contract with the town despite Lucier's attempt to work with them by waiving their reimbursement fee to the town (\$1/ton of textiles). Even their compromise to pick up the people's pink bags has not worked given the number of calls Lucier is getting from dissatisfied citizens. Henry wondered if Simple Recycle would consider making a trip to WB monthly for pink bag pick up instead of weekly. Apparently, Grafton, Framingham, and Shrewsbury still have active relationships with Simple Recycling; folks can schedule a pick up by going online to schedule an appointment for the pick up.

Lucier brought up the Board of Selectmen's question concerning larger trash and recycling totters with the automated arms. Lucier reached on to Pam Harding (Holden Director Planning and Community Development) who noted a 10% contamination rate. Chanis noted that the fees for the large totters are higher. Chanis felt SWAT could do more to reduce trash volume thru increasing education (facebook page and website for WB), possibly increasing bag fees, and working with BlackEarth who collect curbside compost and textiles.

Henry wonders if the recycling market values have changed. Chanis noted that white opaque plastic is now valuable and the price for cardboard has gone up. In Massachusetts, glass is now being sorted and recycled back into glass or ground up to be used in construction.

Henry notes that on rainy days, Republic sends only one truck which implies that the trash and recyclables are being co-mingled. Henry suggests we invite Republic to our next SWAT meeting to discuss our questions. For example, what is our trash/recycling volume, what is our contamination rate, what % of our trash is sent to the incinerator versus out of state landfills, how do they weigh in on totters, how do they see the recycling market changes, will they again supply a dumpster for WB's clean up day April 23, 2022, and how does their recent purchase of a hazardous waste company affect what they do. deRivera will connect with Brian Van Dam and Dan Higgins.

deRivera will obtain the new numbers for the SWAT spreadsheet from kerri at the DPW.

Lucier is hopeful that the new bottle bill (in which plastic water bottles and nips will also have deposits and where the deposit is increased from 5 cents to 10 cents) will become law.

Next Meeting: SWAT will be determined by the availability of Republic to meet with us.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Submitted by
Julianne deRivera, Chair SWAT