

SWAT zoom meeting minutes - April 8, 2021

Present: Norma Chanis, Julianne deRivera, Duane Henry

Absent: Barur Rajeshkumar, Nancy Lucier (Town Administrator)

The meeting began at 1: 15 pm

Henry motions, Chanis seconds approval of SWAT minutes from February 11, 2021. The minutes were passed unanimously.

deRivera still 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 (Chanis felt that none of WB's trash went to Wheelabrator because the town does not have a contract with them) versus what % is sent to out-of-state landfills. Chanis noted that WB's recycling flyer is in need of an update before it is mailed out to town residents next month. Chanis volunteered to clarify the changes for what is acceptable and unacceptable as recyclables. Chanis noted that all recyclables are dependent on a business wanting that particular product. She noted that some haulers like EL Harvey, keep the recyclables on site for years waiting for a buyer. Our other questions: what % of WB glass picked up curbside is recycled back into glass, versus insulation, versus aggregate, versus landfill cover, versus landfill. deRivera will ask Lucier to forward those questions onto Republic.

Lucier had forwarded the latest figures from 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). These results are posted on SWAT's web page.

deRivera read from an email circulated by Worcester's garden club detailing the benefits, and cost to using Black Earth curbside compost pick-up program (see www.blackearthcompost.com or their video 'The Why, What, and How of composting with Black Earth Compost' on YouTube). Chanis is hopeful that if Sterling converts its brush site to a composting site for Black Earth that WB could either bring their compostables there or merge with Sterling to get a reduced rate for BE's curbside services.

deRivera wondered whether WB could still have their Earth Day clean up but modeled after a 'self-serve' set-up. Chanis noted that there were left over supplies from last year's clean up (gloves, yellow trash bags, and poke-sticks) so no fundraising would be necessary. The idea would be for interested citizens to go to a central location (like the town hall or library or DPW) , where they would pick up the yellow trash bags and also sign up for an area they would work in. That way the DWP would know where to go to pick up the filled yellow bags. Chanis would

promote the activity through facebook and ask if Lucier could use the town's electronic sign for messaging. Chanis could also send out a mass email to all of last year's volunteers. Chanis also has the contact information for the National Honor Society student who led his group of students for the clean up last year, so she can reach out again.

Next Meeting: SWAT will meet June 10, 2021 at 1:15p

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Submitted by
Julianne deRivera, Chair SWAT