

SWAT zoom 'not a quorum' meeting minutes - March 10, 2022

Present: Julianne deRivera, Nancy Lucier (Town Administrator), Kevin Duffy (Director of Public Works), Duane Henry

Absent: Norma Chanis, Kristina Pedone, Ann Ramminger

The meeting began at 1: 15 pm

Because only 2 of the 5 SWAT members were present, the quorum necessary was not reached. A summary of the gathering was done to document what was discussed.

Duffy explained that the increase in the curbside cost with the new trash contract which started June 1st, 2020 went from the previous monthly fee of \$21,000 to the new monthly fee of \$28,000. deRivera noted that the total cost of trash to WB is now almost back to what it was 12 years ago before PAYT was instituted. Duffy commented that the state is looking to decrease trash by 10% by 2030. deRivera that the WB schools declined composting school lunches in the past due to lack of outside space for the compost. Duffy noted that 'BootStrap Composting.com may be a better alternative than 'Black Earth composting' and that WB is in their service area. Henry wondered whether the increase in gas costs might be considered an 'act of God' but Duffy felt not. deRivera wondered whether a bag fee increase would help; this change would have to come from a Select Board vote.

Lucier referenced a new 'Green Community' project. For example, the previous street lighting budget went from \$100,000 to \$30,000 since switching over to LED lights. Lucier noted that the WB schools are part of the town's energy audit.

In addition to the several drop-off boxes through-out town; behind the WB Middle High School, behind Our Lady of Good Counsel, behind The Mill restaurant, at Surfside Pool Company store, and finally at the Wachusett Watershed Regional Recycling Center. deRivera wondered whether the Girl Scouts or another group of interested students might want to organize a monthly textile drop-off at the MEES parking lot similar to the very successful Boy Scout bottle drive already being held.

Lucier noted that Pedone was managing the town-wide clean-up day on April 30th rain or shine, with the Senior center being the headquarters. Pedone has added links to sign up and get information on the town website.

Next Meeting: SWAT will be May 12, 2022 at 1:15pm

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 pm.

Submitted by
Julianne deRivera, Chair SWAT