

West Boylston Solid Waste Advisory Team Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2010

The start of FY 2010 was also the start of West Boylston's new Pay-As-You-Throw trash (PAYT) trash program, a new program proposed by the Solid Waste Advisory Team (SWAT) during the prior year. On July 1, 2009, residents began putting their non-recyclable trash in town bags, which were sold for \$1 for 33 gallon bags and 50 cents for 15 gallon bags. SWAT wishes to thank the following stores, which sold these bags at no mark-up: Stop and Shop, Price Chopper, Jerry's Hardware, ACE Hardware, Honey Farms, and the Municipal Light Plant. During FY 2010, these bags brought in \$76,484 in town revenue. This new PAYT program gave residents the needed incentive to reduce their trash; thus, the town's trash tonnage went down from 8 tons daily to 5 tons daily, a 37% decrease. Because the town had less trash, its disposal costs declined from \$153,824 to \$110,794, a 27% decrease. Also, the percentage of trash being recycled went up from 21% to 31%; a 48% increase. These very positive results were in line with the projections made by SWAT when it presented its PAYT proposal to the town during the prior year.

Implementation of the new PAYT program went very smoothly, according to the Director of Public Works, John Westerling. There was very little non-compliance and SWAT thanks the residents of West Boylston for their excellent cooperation.

The new PAYT program resulted in savings for the town, but some of the savings were offset by an unrelated (contractual) increase in the town's collection costs, which went from \$211,668 in FY2009 to \$241,667 in FY2010, a 12% increase. Thus, the town's total trash costs declined from \$395,492 in FY 2009 to \$275,976 in FY2010, a savings of \$119,516 or 30%. This impressive decline should leave more funds available for other town services during these economically austere times.

As FY2010 ended, SWAT reviewed the bids received by DPW Director John Westerling to the RFP the town issued for trash collection. One of the options here was to offer single stream recycling (all recyclables mixed together, rather than dual stream, where containers and paper are picked up separately). SWAT felt it was too soon to change the trash policy again and that single stream would result in greater contamination of the paper recyclables, so voted against making this switch. However, the bids for single stream were no costlier than the bids for dual stream, and the Board of Selectmen voted in favor of single stream, hoping that it would make it easier for residents to recycle. Allied Waste, which has been the town's collector for many years, won this collection contract and their collection costs will be going down significantly.

In addition to tracking the town's trash and recycling numbers after PAYT was implemented, SWAT also discussed its future goals. It agreed to meet quarterly so as to continue advising the town on trash issues; educating the town on how to reduce, reuse, and recycle its solid waste (by updating its brochure and website, writing articles for The Banner, and doing educational spots on local T.V), and possibly combining efforts with the Sustainability Committee. During FY2010, SWAT held 6 meetings and made presentations to both the October and May Town Meetings. Our outstanding, hard-working,

and thoughtful secretary, Janet Vignaly, resigned 6-30-09. SWAT thanks her for all her contributions to the committee. She will be greatly missed.

Julianne DeRivera, Chairman

Judy Doherty

Craig Gonyea

Elise Wellington

Mary Ambrose (has Mary been appointed to SWAT?)