



Town of West Boylston
140 Worcester Street, West Boylston, Massachusetts 01583

Solid Waste Advisory Team (SWAT) Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2019, 1:30 PM, Town Hall Meeting Room

Members Present: Julianne deRivera - Chair, Norma Chanis, Elise Wellington,
Also Present: Nancy Lucier - Town Administrator, Denise Nephew (West Boylston resident)

Members NOT Present: Duane Henry, Barur Rajeshkumar

The meeting began at 1:30 PM.

Minutes: Minutes of the meetings held August 8th and August 15, 2019, were approved.

Upcoming Pink Bag Textile & Small Household Items Recycling Program:

SWAT Presentation on September 26th at Library: deRivera, who made this presentation, reviewed the unanswered questions raised by the 18 residents who attended. Answers to these questions were finalized and Chanis volunteered to format them and send them to the Town Administrator for posting on the Town's DPW web site. Among questions raised were: Won't the new pink bags left curbside by the Simple Recycling driver blow away (Answer, No, it will be affixed to something like a handle on the trash can or bin so that it will not blow away.); What if I need more than two pink bags to recycle my textiles and small household items? (Answer: You can get as many as you need by calling or emailing Simple Recycling and they will deliver them to your home, OR you can get them at the Town Clerk's, the Library, Municipal Light Plant, or the Senior Center.)

Implementation: Chanis recommended that the town's trash/recyclables collector, Republic, be reminded not to collect these filled pink bags that will be collected the same day as your trash and recyclables are collected. This was later done by the Town Administrator Lucier. She noted that Simple Recycling has confirmed the start date of November 4th. The pink mailers she has prepared detailing this new service will be mailed out two weeks prior to the start date, along with the October 21st Town Meeting flyer.

SWAT is hoping that the new Pink Bag Program will reduce the town's trash tonnage and thus the cost of trash disposal for the town. In addition, for every ton of pink bags, the town will receive \$20. Chanis mentioned that our country's additional tariffs may also decrease consumption and therefore trash generation.

October 21st Town Meeting: SWAT agreed to present the screen shots from their Library presentation on the Pink Bag Program at the beginning of Town Meeting.

Local Cable T.V. interview: Wellington reported that she and deRivera had made the video introducing the Pink Bag Program with Hailey Brinn at local cable channels 191, 192, and 194. Corrections could only be added in writing later. The broadcasting schedule is unknown at this point.

DEP Draft Solid Waste Master Plan for 2030: Wellington watched the DEP's recent video of their Draft Solid Waste Master Plan for 2030 on her computer. She reported that its goal is to reduce the state's solid waste tonnage by 30% by 2030!!! As far as residential trash is concerned, more emphasis will be placed on reducing contamination and improving quality. DEP is recommending increasing enforcement of the present waste bans, as 26% of DEP's inspections of commercial waste today fail because these loads contain banned materials! It is looking at banning additional materials from the waste stream, such as textiles, and mattresses, as well as extended producer responsibility for paint, electronics, and carpets. DEP would also like to level the playing field by requiring all residential waste haulers also provide recycling services.

Wellington was disappointed that she did not see the words "Pay As You Throw" (PAYT) in this Draft Plan, as PAYT programs usually result in the largest drops in trash tonnage. Communities like West Boylston and Worcester saw 30 – 40% drops in their trash tonnage after implementing a PAYT system.

Wellington announced that the DEP's public hearing on this Draft Plan will be held in Worcester on October 30th at 5 PM at the DEP Central Regional Office on New Bond Street.

Sustainability Group at Library: Chanis volunteered to work with Anna Shaw, Head Librarian at West Boylston's Library, to start a group at the library focused on "Sustainability," where residents could learn or teach green cleaning practices and other ideas to foster a greener town. Nephew recommended two books she was reading, "*Plastic Ocean*" and "*Fashionopolis*."

Composting: Unfortunately, Adam from City Composting failed to appear at the meeting despite confirming the previous day that he was coming. Chanis suggested that SWAT review what Black Earth has to offer if City Composting is not responsive. Based in Boston, Black Earth has 2 acres where they compost organics.

Next Meeting: SWAT will meet next on December 12, 2019 at 1:30 PM.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 3 PM.

Submitted by,
Julianne deRivera, Chair, SWAT