

## **Minutes of SWAT Meeting with Republic, 4/21/2016**

West Boylston Town Hall

**Attendees:** Julianne deRivera, Kathy Fahy, Eric Curtis (Republic General Manager), Michael Szczepan (Republic Division Managers)

Meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

- Mike mentioned that single stream rates are going through the roof due to the contamination of paper and cardboard by broken glass. The rates are nearly as much as trash. When our contract expires in 4 years, he recommends switching to dual stream recycling which has no charge.
- The rate for trash is \$65/ton. The cost for single stream recycling is \$45/ton, but the cost is included in our current contract. However, that will change when we renew in 4 years!
- Rebate is \$45/ton, paper rebate is significant (Julianne, can you refresh my memory on this?)
- Mike gave us sample stickers that are put on trash/recyclables that are unacceptable. The sticker explains why the trash or recycling would not be collected and includes Republic's phone number.
- There isn't much that they can do about trash blowing out of recycle bins. Mike and Eric suggested that residents put a cover over their bins.
- Styrofoam is cheap to make but very difficult and expensive to recycle.
- The trash collector does not check bags to see if recyclable material is in the trash.
- Mike suggested that we think about raising bag fees in order to generate more revenue.
- Mike suggested meetings with library groups and schools as a way to increase education.
- He said that it's very expensive to recycle organics. If we started a pilot program, we would have to charge enough to cover a truck, a driver, maintenance, etc., which would be fairly prohibitive. He suggested using grant money to purchase composters.
- Eric will provide us with more information on "Garbage Gus", videos for children with a recycling component.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Fahy

SWAT Secretary