



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

Solid Waste Advisory Team (SWAT) Meeting Minutes

August 8,, 2019, 1:30 PM, Town Hall Meeting Room

Members Present:, Norma Chanis, Julianne deRivera, Barur Rajeshkumar, Elise Wellington, Nancy Lucier - Town Administrator

Members NOT Present: Duane Henry

The meeting began at 1:30 pm.

Minutes: The draft minutes from SWAT's meeting June 13, 2019, were approved.

Pink Bag Recycling Program: Lucier spoke about the progress of the proposed Pink Bag Textile Recycling Program. The contract was signed by our BOS. The signed contract, town seal, and the trash collection calendar were sent to Stephen Lisaukas from WasteZero on July 1st and the signed contract to Sonny Wilkins at Simple Recycling on August 6th. The next requirement is to send them the addresses of all the residences in West Boylston where their informational mailers should be sent and where the pink bags will be picked up, namely the addresses of all residents receiving the town's trash/recyclables collection services. Our trash/recyclables collector, Republic, was unable to give Lucier this information, so she will try to get it from our DPW. Also, having the contract signed by Simple Recycling is still needed.

Chanis, who has been working with Simple Recycling and Lisaukas on the mailer, reported that they have finally reached agreement on what information this mailer will include, and it will include small household appliances as one of the items that can be collected in the pink bags. She will send SWAT members a draft. SWAT will be sending out a separate informative flyer via the Municipal Light Department's mailing. Because the Pink Bag Collection must follow the town's trash collection route, this program will not be able to service apartment complexes or businesses. The projected launch date of the Pink Bag Textile Collection is mid-October.

Wellington had volunteered to do an interview explaining this pink bag program with the town's PEG coordinator, Cliff Shay, and they had agreed on some of the questions he would ask. However, Shay is no longer in that position so Wellington will check in with Selectman Chris Rucho to see who has replaced Shay. Wellington and deRivera will also be presenting information on this program to the public in the Library downstairs conference room September 26th at 3 PM. To prepare their material and understand what internet/power point availability is at the library, Wellington, Chanis, and deRivera will meet August 15th at 2 PM at the Library with its Director, Anna Shaw.

Increase in Trash Collector's Fees: Lucier said that she spoke to Republic about their intended tipping fee increase from \$67/ton to \$72/ton. Because the town's budget has already been passed, there will be no increase possible until May 2020. In the meantime, Lucier is planning to check the RFP from Northboro. The contract will probably be put out to bid. Lucier has already been approached by trash collectors Waste Management and E.L. Harvey seeking our business. Wellington suggested that incentives be put in our contract so that non-allowable curbside trash items (e.g., items weighing more than 45 lbs) and recyclables that do not meet requirements (e.g., plastic bags in recycling bins) NOT be picked up. She pointed out that it's a problem that the more trash Republic picks up, the more money it makes! There is no incentive now in our contract for the collector (Republic) to reject non-allowable trash items or contaminants in our recyclables, such as plastic bags and styrofoam. She suggested that

our next contract include rejection stickers to reduce the number of non-allowable items going into our trash and recyclables, which end up costing the town money. Such rejection stickers would also explain the problem to the customer and reduce the contamination problem.

DPW/SWAT Web Site: Chanis reviewed what helpful links are available to put on the town's DPW website and will forward them to Lucier to add to this site.

WasteZero Metering Agreement: Rajeshkumar reported that an improvement in the accounting procedure used in the town's trash metering agreement with Waste Zero (producer of the town's PAYT trash bags) had been made.

Plastic Bag Ban: There was a general discussion on banning the single use plastic bag. Rajeshkumar said that the ban did not pass when the Selectmen recently voted upon it (2 were in favor and 2 were against), noting a state-wide ban is expected in 2020. Apparently, towns can do a ban, but only cities may also institute fees on bags, such as paper bags (which encourages shoppers to bring their own reusable bags). Wellington noted that all Big Y stores no longer carry single use plastic bags. Chanis noted that Shrewsbury has banned these single use plastic bags but is unable to enforce the ban completely. deRivera mentioned that at least this ban would be a step forward, imperfect as it is, which would be better than not doing anything about the overload of plastics. Chanis noted that plastic bags could get a second life as TREX wood or fleece. deRivera countered that any form of plastic never disappears but only degrades into smaller and smaller pieces which are wreaking havoc on humans and animals alike. SWAT referenced the Scituate Bag Law in 'Municipal Advocate (vol 29, no 4).' Rajeshkumar stated that Worcester may end up putting this question onto its ballot.

Composting: deRivera reported on her contact with Adam from City Composting, who agreed to speak to SWAT at our meeting. It was agreed to invite Adam to give a presentation on his composting services at our December 12, 2019, meeting. Chanis noted that there is composting available at the Recycling Center for its volunteers.

Litter: deRivera was able to connect with the DWP about availability of WHOC inmates doing litter pick up for the town. SWAT will request at least a monthly commitment on the most heavily littered streets, especially where there are no nearby houses. SWAT is hopeful that the state legislature will pass a state-wide nips bottle deposit fee.

Next Meeting: SWAT will meet October 10, 2019 at 1:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 PM.

Submitted by,
Julianne deRivera, Chair
SWAT