

## SWAT zoom meeting minutes - November 17, 2022

Present: Julianne deRivera, Kevin Duffy (Director of Public Works), Norma Chanis, Jennifer Warren-Dyment (Town Administrator), Ann Ramminger, Duane Henry, Kristina Pedone

The meeting began at 12:30 pm

Ramminger motions to approve minutes from SWAT's last meeting October 13, 2022. Pedone seconds.

Ramminger noted that the survey monkey questionnaire was completed but that she was unable to create a link for public access. Apparently the added features of 'skip logic' and 'comment box' required an extra fee to launch. Pedone agreed to look into this issue with Faye Zukowski (municipal assistant).

Pedone is volunteering to lead the next West Boylston Clean-Up day April 2023. She hopes to coordinate the date (to be determined) with the surrounding towns. In addition, Pedone is hoping to expand the scope of the day to include other items to get picked up like textiles or large bulky items either by using volunteers to go to folks' homes or with added bins by the usual Republic dumpster in front of the DPW building that day. Pedone will continue the online signup format for streets to be done, and will provide refreshments to the volunteers along with gloves/trash pickup sticks. Duffy recommended free water bottles made from recycled plastic instead of the standard Tshirts.

deRivera wondered whether West Boylston might want to consider working with Helpsey as this textile recycler is also working with Newton, Arlington, and Brookline. Duffy mentioned that Watertown is also using Helpsey on a quarterly basis for their textile collection service. Duffy noted that their curbside textile pickup comes with some caveats: folks need to schedule a pickup in advance, and there may only be 50-100 pickups per town. Pedone offered to call Helpsey for more details. Chanis will be meeting with a CMRK representative (an organization that works with Big Brother/Big Sister) at the Wachusett Watershed Regional Recycling Center on December 5th to discuss their services for getting rid of hard to recycle items. Big Brother/Big Sister also offer curbside textile pickups.

deRivera wondered about the pro's and con's of increasing trash bag prices as they are significantly lower than our surrounding towns. Duffy had been alerted by Mass DEP to other bordering town's citizens dumping their trash in West Boylston trash bags in West Boylston because our bag prices are so cheap. Pedone noted no complaints had been brought to the attention of the BOS. She also wanted to know if a reason for the increase was to cover the

increase in the cost of trash removal. SWAT's most recent spreadsheet was not posted; deRivera will send a copy to Pedone and will resend to the town clerk.

Henry wondered whether our trash was getting weighed twice; he noted that trash trucks are weighed as they enter the Casella facility with trash and recycling on board and then weighed again as they are leaving without the recycling content. Duffy agreed to investigate.

deRivera mentioned that she has been in contact with 2 teachers at the middle/high school and 2 teachers at the elementary school who are interested in reducing/reusing/recycling. She encouraged them to register for The Green Team which offers free tools and lesson plans to that end. She will follow up.

Next Meeting: SWAT will be January 12, 2023 at 12:30pm

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm.

Submitted by  
Julianne deRivera, Chair SWAT