



TOWN OF WESTBOROUGH MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF HEALTH

TOWN HALL
34 WEST MAIN STREET,
WESTBOROUGH, MA 01581-1998

TEL. (508) 366-3045
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BOARD OF HEALTH MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday
April 26, 2016

**FORBES MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 45 WEST MAIN STREET,
Room 23, 2ND FLOOR
5:30 p.m.**

AGENDA

1. Minutes of Meeting (March 29, 2016)
 2. Director's Report (March)
 3. Sanitarian's Report (March)
 4. Health Inspectors' Reports (March)
 5. New Business
Discussion of implementation of curbside trash collection - 6:00 pm
 6. Director's Issues
- Adjournment



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Minutes of Board of Health Meeting April 26, 2016

The regular Board of Health meeting was held on Tuesday, April 26, 2016, in room 23 in the Forbes Municipal Building, 45 West Main Street. The meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m. by Chairman Walsh. Present: Member Ehrlich, Director Baccari, and Sanitarian Gauthier. Absent: Inspector Gilchrist. (Member Hashmi arrived at 5:50 pm.)

The minutes of the meeting held on March 29, 2016, were approved.

Director's report (March) was discussed and approved.

Sanitarian's report (March) was discussed and approved.

Health Inspectors' reports including part-time Health Inspector (March) were discussed and approved. An inspection conducted last month by Inspector Gilchrist at one of the facilities at the Spectrum Health campus was discussed. She observed several violations at a self-serve buffet where clients are allowed to serve themselves; an emergency meeting was held with representatives of Spectrum Health and the food service company (Nexdine). The facility will be closely monitored by the inspector. The pre-opening and opening inspections conducted at Civic Kitchen (Westborough Country Club) were discussed.

Member Hashmi discussed a recent informal meeting he had with the Town Manager regarding the outcome of Article 18 at last month's Annual Town Meeting.

Member Hashmi asked the Board to consider instituting a sugar tax, similar to a meal tax or a fuel tax, to help fund school expenses. It also might get people thinking about what they're eating and drinking; it would cost them more.

Member Ehrlich said it would be an uphill battle. Taxing food is not the way to deal with obesity.

Member Hashmi said it's something to think about. He doesn't want it to be punitive. It would just be 2 cents.

Member Ehrlich said he would first like to see if it would make a difference, not just a symbolic act. Recent reports indicate obesity rates have leveled off or even gone down.

Director Baccari said he doesn't know of any boards of health doing this right now. A lot of what we do is environmental health. He also doesn't know what the mechanism would be to collect the tax.

Chairman Walsh said a fuel tax is so completely different from what is being discussed.

Member Ehrlich said there are a wide variety of places in Town that sell products that contain sugar; supermarkets, restaurants, convenience stores, bakeries, and donut shops would be impacted. It would be very complicated.

Sanitarian Gauthier said this is another tax that would hurt the small "mom and pop" stores.

Chairman Walsh said residents would just go over to the next town and make their purchases. That would hurt local businesses.

Member Hashmi thanked the Board for their input and said he will do some more research.

New Business

Discussion - Implementation of curbside trash collection

Director Baccari and Member Ehrlich have met a couple of times with a committee to investigate options to reduce trash and increase recycling rates.

Director Baccari referenced an expense and revenue sheet that shows the costs of the current program and a PAYT program (attached). The PAYT program would be funded somewhat through the purchase of trash bags and be curbside trash pickup.

Member Ehrlich said looking at the figures in the current program (provided by Irene Congdon, DEP Municipal Assistance Coordinator), solid waste tonnage is 5,276 per year (last year's figures) and that includes approximately 800 tons of demolition material. Most towns do not accept that type of material. When you average it out, that's approximately 2200 pounds per household in Westborough. That figure includes construction / demolition material. Member Ehrlich said that puts the actual number of pounds of trash per household a little out of line. In Westborough, residents can drop off a couch, mattress, etc., 6 days a week. In the majority of towns in central MA, they have one day when residents can put out their bulky items and pay for the removal.

Chairman Walsh said there is also a dumpster at the transfer station that handles construction debris. There are number of people who bring their pickup trucks loaded with sheetrock and construction debris and load it into that dumpster. That adds to Westborough's tonnage.

Member Ehrlich said that Westborough's tonnage figures are higher than most central MA towns. Because of that, the DEP Coordinator is encouraging the Town to consider a program where trash is collected curbside with special bags and discontinue the current drop-off arrangement.

Director Baccari said trash would be picked up once a week and recycling every other week. Residents would receive a 96-gallon container for single-stream recycling. Bags would have to be purchased for trash. If the Town goes with PAYT, there will be no disposal of demolition material. Bulky items would be collected on a schedule and residents would pay a fee.

Member Ehrlich said this is the model that Grafton uses and their trash tonnage is half of Westborough's. The Town Manager likes this model.

Director Baccari said some towns have seen a 40 to 50 % reduction using PAYT.

Member Ehrlich explained the expenses and revenue from the current program that also includes private subscribers (Tidy Town), along with the projected expenses and revenue from PAYT.

Chairman Walsh asked if the purpose of this process is to reduce tonnage and you have some residents that use Tidy Town and some who use the transfer station, who uses less tonnage per household? If you don't have the answer, then you can't make a good prediction.

Member Ehrlich said it's almost an impossible figure to know because there are some residents who use both Tidy Town and have a dump sticker. They like the convenience of having their trash picked up, but also like the flexibility of going to the transfer station. There are a lot of unknowns with this.

Member Ehrlich said the theory behind the reduction in tonnage with curbside is #1 - there are a lot of people who go to the transfer station illegally and now they can't throw their trash at the dump and add to the Town's tonnage; #2 - it will be less likely for out-of-towners to hand off their trash to a resident who has a sticker to throw away at the transfer station because with PAYT, special bags have to be bought and used, and #3 - recycling is free and residents have to buy bags for their trash. Residents are forced to recycle.

Director Baccari said Westborough's tonnage would automatically go down with PAYT because there won't be any construction and demolition material.

Director Baccari said that with our current contract with Wheelabrator, the Town has to give them a year's notice and they could cancel us right away. Harvey's would probably pick us up right away.

Chairman Walsh commented that if this plan were to be implemented, people could become hoarders or dump their trash in woods or along the roads.

Member Ehrlich said it comes down to either going with curbside or keeping the status quo.

Chairman Walsh said he wants to maintain the status quo; he likes having the flexibility.

Member Hashmi said this decision needs to go before a public forum. Member Ehrlich said he would like the BOH to hold a public hearing.

Director Baccari said even before that, the plan should be presented to the Selectmen and members of the finance committee.

Chairman Walsh said before he goes any further, he would like to know what the typical Saturday tonnage is and have a police officer there to inspect for stickers and turn away people who do not have stickers.

Member Ehrlich said we're not necessarily ready to rush into this without more information.

Director's Issues

The certificates of merit are on the Town's website.

Tim Deschamps, Director of Central Mass Mosquito Control, will attend the May meeting.

During a recent compliance inspection conducted by the Worcester Regional Tobacco Control collaborative, Westborough Shell, 27 East Main Street, was cited for selling blunt wraps that are prohibited by Westborough Tobacco Regulations. The facility was fined \$100.00.

Director Baccari has several proposals for updating the Town's stables regulations including increasing the minimum acreage for a horse from one acre to five acres. There will be more discussion at next month's meeting.

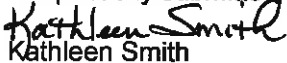
Director Baccari asked the Board to consider a new policy that would mandate a certified food manager on site at all times at food establishments. There will be more discussion at next month's meeting.

Member Hashmi asked the Board to consider hiking the smoking age to 21. Director Baccari said there is legislation pending in the State legislature. Member Ehrlich said he would like to wait and see if the bill is approved.

Director Baccari will contact the DPW regarding what kind of water pipes are going into homes in Westborough.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m. The next meeting will be May 17, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,


Kathleen Smith

Administrative Assistant

Westborough's Curbside Trash and Recycling Program options

Goal: Townwide Curbside program, reduce trash and increase recycling access
Current Drop off stickers holders 3600 households
 Trash collected at the curb 2200 households (HH)
 Trash pounds per HH per year 2198 Central Mass ave 1326 lbs
 Recycling at the curb 550 HH
 Recycling pounds per HH per year 407 Central Mass ave 510 lbs

Current Program							
Expenses				Revenue			
Solid Waste	Tons	Costs	rounded Totals			Totals	
Transfer station cost			\$ 200,000	Transfer Stickers		\$ 192,000	
SW Disposal cost	5,276	\$ 66	349,000				
Yard waste			95,000	Taxes		\$ 476,000	
Electronics			4,000				
Town offices recycling/sharps			6,000				
HHW			14,000				
Town Cost			\$ 668,000			\$ 668,000	
Private subscription	2200	265	\$ 580,000	average cost per drop off user		\$ 70.00	
private w/recycling	550	100	\$ 55,000	average cost per curbside user		\$265.00	
TOTAL Cost			\$ 1,303,000	if take total cost/ 4073		\$319.91	

Current Program							
	Tons	Costs	Actual Totals			Totals	
Transfer station cost			200,000	Transfer Stickers		\$ 192,000	
SW Disposal cost	5,276	\$ 66	349,000				
Yard waste			\$ 95,000	Taxes		\$ 476,000	
Electronics			4,000				
Town offices recycling/sharps			6,000				
HHW			14,000				
Town Cost			668,000			\$ 668,000	
Private subscription	2200	265	\$ 583,000	average cost per drop off user		\$ 70.00	
private w/recycling	2200	100	\$ 220,000	average cost per curbside user		\$365.00	
TOTAL Cost			\$ 1,471,000	if take total cost/ 4073		\$361.16	
if everyone had recycling where they had their trash							

Curbside		SMART program (Save Money And Reduce Trash)				
Expenses				Revenue		
	Tons	Costs	Actual Totals			Totals
curbside trash and recycling collection			650,000			
SW Disposal cost	2638	66	\$ 174,000	Bags	\$2	\$ 412,000
Education			4,000		\$1	\$ 110,000
Yard waste			95,000	Taxes		\$ 537,000
Electronics			4,000			
SMART trash bags	318,000	\$ 0.35	112,000			
Town offices recycling/ sharps			6,000			
HHW			14,000			
Town Cost			1,059,000	Revenue		\$ 1,059,000
Private subscription	0					
				average cost per curbside user		\$100.00
			\$ 1,059,000	if take total cost/ 4073		\$260.00

To pay for the program:

Taxes would be about the same (\$537,000)

and the residents would buy SMART trash bags for the amount of trash they put out (about \$100 a year)

For bulky items residents would call for pick up and pay for what they put out (about \$30 a year)

Residents would receive:

Curbside collection of trash weekly

Curbside collection of Mixed Recycling every other week in a 96 gallon bin supplied by E.L. Harvey .

Bulky items would be collected on a schedule and residents would pay the fee.

Yard waste would be the same

Goodwill and bulb collection would be moved to a convenient location in town

Events for:

Pounds of trash and recyclables per participating household per year

Curbside		trash lbs.	Drop- off		trash lbs.
Auburn	64 gal	1583	Ashburnham	SMART	250
Bellingham	64 gal	1685	Ashby	SMART	650
Blackstone	2 bag limit	1141	Athol	SMART	878
Clinton	SMART	1198	Ayer	SMART	1209
East Brookfield	SMART	1115	Barre	SMART	953
Fitchburg	64 gal	1482	Berlin		1473
Gardner	48 gal	1233	Bolton	SMART	941
Grafton	SMART	1223	Brookfield	SMART	1519
Holden	64 gal	1537	Douglas		1998
Hopedale	3 bag limit	1387	Dudley		1655
Leominster	64 gal	1406	Dunstable		850
Lunenburg	SMART	765	Groton	SMART	1167
Marlborough	64 gal	1288	Harvard		1662
Maynard	SMART stickers	1622	Hudson	SMART	1375
Mendon	2 barrel limit	1696	Littleton	SMART	1341
Millford	4 bags	1721	Millbury		1352
Millville	2 barrel limit	1616	North Brookfield	SMART	1033
Northborough	SMART	751	Pepperell	SMART	1322
Paxton	5 bag limit	1968	Petersham	SMART	1056
Shirley	SMART	960	Phillipston	SMART	436
Uxbridge	SMART	1323	Royalston	SMART	688
Southbridge	in a bin	1237	Southborough		2069
Sterling	3 bag limit	1362	Spencer	SMART	1355
Townsend	2 bag limit	1400	Sturbridge	SMART	408
Upton	SMART	1166	Sutton	SMART	885
West Boylston	SMART	1163	Warren	SMART	1267
Worcester	SMART	785	Webster	SMART	1365
			Westborough		2198
		35815	Westminster		1719
average pounds per Household		1326 ave lbs	Winchendon	SMART	1143

have a recycling center as well

36218

Westborough numbers

average pounds per Household

1207

4476 tons

4073 hh

2198 lbs of trash per household

5276 tons go to wheelabrator including the 800 bulky/ demo