

**DRAFT**  
**West Boylston Solid Waste Advisory Team (SWAT)**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting Minutes**  
**November 30, 2007**  
**Town Hall**

**PRESENT:** Leon Gaumond – Town Administrator, John Westerling – DPW Director, Dana Karlsson, Judy Doherty, Julianne DeRivera, Elise Wellington, Janet Vignaly

The third meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Team began at 9:05 a.m. Ms. Wellington started the meeting by providing the team with various resources. The material covered climate change, healthy living in Massachusetts and Pay-As-You-Throw collection systems. The literature was given to Ms. Wellington by Joseph Lambert of the Mass. Department of Environmental Protection.

After the materials were distributed, SWAT welcomed Ms. Janet Vignaly to the meeting. The team moved into a discussion concerning the induction of new members to the committee. Mr. Gaumond explained that the original proposal for SWAT deemed five official members an appropriate amount, but would figure out the procedure for adding associate members. It was at this time that SWAT's Chairwoman, Ms. Doherty, suggested that each team member should report back on their individual leads since the previous meeting. Mr. Gaumond started with an announcement concerning a new Sustainability grant given to the town of West Boylston by MassDEP. The grant is for 80 hours of assistance by MassDEP personnel (valued at \$2,800). The town will also be receiving more compost bins which will be available to town citizens at a greatly reduced cost. Mr. Gaumond explained that the money generated by bin purchases would be put towards buying more bins to create a sustainable system of distribution.

Mr. Gaumond also circulated a recycling manual that can be accessed online at [www.massrecycle.org/2007manual.pdf](http://www.massrecycle.org/2007manual.pdf)

The packet sparked a conversation about paper recycling, more specifically, a company called Abitibi. This company encourages schools to consolidate their recycled paper which they later purchase and reuse. Ms. DeRivera pointed out that she knew of other towns in Massachusetts that benefited from this partnership and suggested that we look into contacting the company. Ms. Vignaly volunteered to be the contact person for this endeavor. Continuing with the idea of using other green towns as inspiration, Ms. Wellington circulated an article from the Worcester Telegram and Gazette about a zero waste policy in Hardwick, MA. Ms. Wellington also thanked Mr. Gaumond for the PAYT article that he emailed to the team.

After discussing solid waste in other towns, Ms. Vignaly interjected with a question about comparative statistics. Mr. Westerling explained that West Boylston reached a 23% recycling rate for the month of October (a pretty amazing endeavor since the town has rested at an 18-19% rate for the past few years). The team discussed how it could foster even more interest in the town. Ms. Doherty suggested her idea of getting families to

pledge to be more environmentally friendly in the New Year. Ms. Vignaly explained her idea of using the school system to reach out to community members through a recycling drive. The drive would entail a competition between the families that students enroll. Trash (or recycling) would be weighed to determine what student (or group of students) signed up the most environmentally friendly families. SWAT agreed that this would be a great means of publicizing the work of the group.

The group started to focus the conversation on advertising, deciding that it would be a good idea to construct a webpage to represent the team. Ms. Karlsson volunteered to create a myspace account for SWAT. The team also discussed holding an Earth Day event in conjuncture with the DCR. In addition to these endeavors, the members agreed that it would be a good idea to set up a SWAT both at the next town meeting in order to reach out to the other citizens in the town. Each member agreed to research and report back on their assignment at the next SWAT meeting.

Submitted by,

Dana Karlsson  
Clerk