

West Boylston Solid Waste Advisory Team  
Minutes  
November 18, 2008  
Outside Town Hall Offices, 127 Hartwell Street

Present:  
Judy Doherty, Chair  
Elise Wellington  
Janet Vignaly  
Craig Gonyea  
Julianne DeRivera

Not present:  
John Westerling

Ms. Doherty opened the meeting at 7 p.m.

Ms. Vignaly reported that she had received an informal question from Mr. Ray Bricault, chair of the Finance Committee, asking whether SWAT would support the no-free-bag Pay As You Throw (PAYT) program for West Boylston. Ms. Vignaly said she had replied that she would bring it up at the next meeting. Ms. Vignaly proposed a ranking system for the programs SWAT would support: First, if the Town could afford such a program, the 50-free-bag system would be best because it would limit extra family expense and give an incentive to recycle. The second best option would be the no-free-bag program, because it would encourage recycling and save the town more money. Finally, if the Town were faced with having to take trash out of the budget altogether through privatization, SWAT would not support that option but would instead propose a PAYT program with a \$10/month flat fee plus a bag fee and no free bags. Such a program would save families money if the alternative were privatization. Mr. Gonyea said he did not want to see privatization and would support the last program if the only other option were privatization. Mr. Gonyea motioned that SWAT support the ranking system as laid out previously, Ms. Wellington seconded. All in favor.

SWAT members agreed that a letter would be drafted to the Board of Selectmen, CC'ing the Finance Committee and School Committee, with a summary of the research that had been done, the outcome of Town Meeting, and the three programs that SWAT would support. Ms. Vignaly offered to draft the letter. Members also agreed that they would not agree to divert their attention to the proposed new function as an Energy Committee, until their research on solid waste had been addressed and proposal had been acted upon.

Ms. Derivera and Ms. Doherty reported that they had met with Mr. Leon Gaumond, Town Administrator. Mr. Gaumond had encouraged the SWAT to take a break; he told Ms. Derivera and Ms. Doherty that the SWAT team met more frequently than most town committees and he recognized the hard work the team had accomplished over the past year. He told the members that he was planning to meet with the Selectmen in December and planned to have a lengthy discussion with them about the SWAT proposal in particular and on what to do with the trash program. Members agreed to schedule their next meetings for February and April, to get ready to make a report at May Town Meeting.

Ms. Wellington offered to update the webpage with any changes made since Town Meeting. Members agreed that would be good and thanked her for her work.

Ms. Wellington said the SWAT should follow up on the question of the Town getting reimbursed for recycled paper. She offered to contact Mr. Westerling about that question.

Ms. Doherty said she was approached by the person in charge of After School Programs at the elementary school. Ms. Doherty and Ms. Vignaly said that they did not have time to take on another project, but would consider the project next year (2010). Ms. DeRivera said she planned to meet with a group of high school teachers who were interested in environmental matters. She said that high school students had to do community service projects and it would be great to get them to do some of the research as to how the school could improve in recycling and energy usage.

The next meeting was scheduled for the first Tuesday in February. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Submitted by,

Janet Vignaly, Acting Secretary