

West Boylston Solid Waste Advisory Team  
DRAFT Minutes  
October 19, 2009  
West Boylston Middle/High School

Present:

Judy Doherty, Chair  
Julianne DeRivera , Member  
Elise Wellington, Member  
Janet Vignaly, Member, Clerk

Not Present:

Craig Gonyea, Member  
John Westerling, DPW Director

Ms. Doherty called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m

I. Approval of Minutes & Election of Officers

Ms. Wellington moved to accept the July and September minutes as amended and emailed to the group by Ms. Vignaly. Ms. Vignaly seconded and members approved unanimously.

Ms. Wellington moved that Ms. DeRivera assume the position as Chair of the SWAT and that Ms. Vignaly continue in her position as clerk. Ms. DeRivera seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

II. Resolution to Support Expanded Bottle Bill (H. 3515)

Ms. Wellington passed out information on the Bottle Bill that summarized much of the issue. Members said they supported the expanded bill in that it was in line with the goals of the committee, especially that it would increase the recycling rate of the newly covered containers. After some discussion, Ms. Wellington moved that the SWAT recommend that the Board of Selectmen sign the Resolution to Expand the Bottle Bill as forwarded to the SWAT by Mr. Gaumond. Ms. Vignaly seconded the motion and all approved unanimously. Ms. Wellington suggested that the SWAT send something official to the Selectmen, and that the information she had found could be compiled for the Board to read and consider. Members agreed that it would be necessary to contact Mr. Gaumond about whether it would be necessary for a representative of SWAT to attend a Selectmen's meeting.

III. Town Meeting Report under Article I

Ms. DeRivera and Ms. Wellington spoke with Mr. Dave Sweetman to confirm that they would give a short report including 2 Power Point slides at the Town Meeting.

IV. Article 18

Ms. Vignaly suggested the SWAT take a stand regarding the Town Meeting Warrant Article 18 regarding raising adequate funds to participate in the Wachusett Earth Day recycling center. Ms. Wellington noted that residents need someplace to discard their household hazardous waste, and that participation made sense. After some discussion, Ms. Wellington moved that SWAT support Article 18, Ms. Vignaly seconded, and all approved unanimously.

V. Newspaper articles

Ms. DeRivera said she still planned to do a 3-month report on PAYT for the Banner and T&G. Ms. Wellington and Ms. DeRivera noted that the recent Banner article covering PAYT (October 15, 2009) reported numbers but did not put them in perspective by providing percentages. The article also did

not acknowledge the great collaboration that went into implementing the program so quickly and smoothly.

#### VI. Negotiation of Next Contract

Members questioned their role in the procurement of the next contract for hauling Solid Waste. Ms. Vignaly noted that Mr. Westerling had indicated the contract would be something he and Mr. Gaumond would take care of without SWAT's involvement, while Mr. Gaumond had seemed to want SWAT's involvement. Ms. Vignaly suggested SWAT send an email to Mr. Westerling and Mr. Gaumond asking, 1. What is Mr. Westerling doing for the next contract (e.g., looking into single stream, preparing an RFP), 2. What is the timeline, 3. What questions Mr. Westerling needs assistance on, and to 4. Please keep SWAT informed on progress made in this arena. [Mr. Westerling clarified by email that there would be "a lot of strategy to be discussed on how the RFP would be written and when it would be advertised." He wrote that he and Mr. Gaumond were not intending to do the RFP process without SWAT's input, "but rather that the process (i.e. typing the RFP, advertising, opening proposals, etc.) would likely be handled by me. I envision SWAT involved in creating questions for the haulers, a representative of SWAT attending the interviews, offering recommendations, etc."]

Ms. Wellington noted that her impression was that single stream was not the way to go, but that she had most of her information from Mr. Westerling and from Mr. Szczechan from Allied Waste, so further research was needed. Ms. DeRivera said she felt the onus of sorting recycling should be put on the household, if possible, especially if there was a smaller percentage of single stream being actually recycled later on. Ms. Vignaly said she thought converting to single stream would be like moving backwards for West Boylston; if residents were already used to separating Paper from Containers and this was more efficient for recycling purposes, then why would we move to a less efficient system? Members agreed that further research was needed, as other communities were moving in the direction of single stream recycling.

#### VII. Next meeting

Members set the tentative next meeting for January 2010.

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 pm.

Submitted by,

Janet Vignaly, Secretary