

West Boylston Solid Waste Advisory Team  
DRAFT Minutes  
January 26, 2010  
Town Hall Offices, 127 Hartwell Street

Present:

Julianne DeRivera, Chair  
Janet Vignaly, Member, Clerk  
Judy Doherty, Member  
John Westerling, DPW Director  
Julia Doherty, Guest  
Marina Meehan, Guest

Not Present:

Elise Wellington, Member  
Craig Gonyea, Member

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m

I. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Doherty motioned the October meetings minutes be accepted. Ms. Vignaly seconded and all approved.

II. Banner article about PAYT

Mr. Westerling reported on the PAYT program. He said that November saw an all-time high of 34% in the town's recycling rate. The highest ever amount of paper recycling was collected on December 11, at 7.65 tons. He said that the trash trend line continues to be in a negative direction. Mr. Westerling pointed out that residents are generating less trash—the recycling tonnage itself hasn't risen much, but the total amount of tonnage has decreased, thus the increased recycling rate. Through December 14 the town had collected \$75,401 in bag revenue. Ms. Vignaly said she had sent Mr. Westerling an email asking for updated numbers but he hadn't replied. Mr. Westerling said he didn't have anything to add. He did suggest getting a quote from Town Administrator, Board of Selectmen. Ms. DeRivera offered to contact them. Ms. Doherty said it would be good to explain that this savings in trash meant that there was less money appropriated to the DPW, and more money available to the general budget. Members suggested the article contain a reminder to the public to use the recycling bins at athletic fields and playgrounds. Members noted that Irene Congdon from DEP should be added to the list of Thank You's in the article.

III. Update on SWAT's support for expanded bottle bill

Ms. DeRivera reminded the team that after SWAT's last meeting, Mr. Gaumond sent SWAT a report showing that the Selectmen had in fact already signed the Resolution of Support for an expanded bottle bill. Question: Had they sent it to Rep. Jim O'Day? Ms. DeRivera said she would ask Mr. Gaumond.

Ms. DeRivera reported that she signed and sent the letter drafted by Ms. Wellington, to Mr. O'Day, showing that SWAT supported the expanded bottle bill.

IV. New Recyclable Battery Box

We are now recycling rechargeable batteries (e.g. cordless drill, cameras, phones) free of charge to the town. The group Call2Recycle sent the initial box, then when it gets filled up, John contacts the group and they come to pick it up.

Ms. DeRivera suggested adding this to Banner article: “There’s now a battery collection box at the Town Hall for rechargeable batteries only. This is free-of-charge to the town and residents.” Also, cell phones and ink cartridges can be dropped off in the school lobbies and help the schools when people recycle in this way.

## VI. Report on Solid Waste Contract Progress

Mr. Westerling said West Boylston is being “wooed” by contractors. Mr. Westerling had been setting up meetings with Bob Stodolski at Central Mass Disposal, Cassella (who has Single Stream/Zero Sort), Allied Waste, and Waste Management. He said he hoped to have bids ready by end of February.

Mr. Westerling said that he was looking at 4 options:

1. extend contract with Allied Waste
2. town purchase truck, collect solid waste on its own
3. new contract with current system
4. new contract with single stream

Extend current contract: The current collection contract does allow for a 5-year extension of the contract, if agreed to by both parties. Ms. Vignaly asked if Allied Waste has made any offers. She recalled a question that came up earlier about whether Allied Waste might offer to re-up the contract as is, if the town didn’t go out to bid. Mr. Westerling said he hadn’t spoken with Mr. Szechepan yet. He noted that if the town went out to bid, other companies (including Allied Waste) might try to beat the costs in the current contract. He noted later that Waste Management came in 5 years ago but couldn’t beat Allied Waste’s contract, even with reduced fuel charges from being so close, however, they may be able to have a better offer now.

Town collects own trash: Mr. Westerling put out some rough numbers—over the next 4 years it would cost the town \$1B to collect trash. If the town purchased a truck it may cost \$200,000—amortized over 10 years this would be \$20,000/year. To hire a driver would be \$60,000/year. This would save the town quite a bit of money. The drawbacks are: added personnel cost. Also, Clinton, who collects its own trash, experiences a high amount of workmen’s comp claims. However, with PAYT, Mr. Westerling pointed out residents are limited in the weight of what they put out. The other question would be where to bring the recyclables. The town would have to work this out privately. Also, what is the backup if the truck breaks down? Also, the fuel cost is another factor. Also, the added cost of insurance helps it to add up. Mr. Doherty said that Mike Kane had said that Clinton’s program was terrible, and rife with corruption.

Single stream: Cassella, the only single stream company, said you don’t need a bin, so the town doesn’t have the start-up cost of the toters. Now, people are paying to get rid of single stream recycling, and the cost has reached as high as \$65/ton to dump. Now it’s around \$20 per ton. You could also have a contract that says the contractor absorbs it, but then they would build the cost into the contract. Ms. Vignaly said she talked to Chris Knuth who said that with single stream the end site was very picky and could reject loads that were too contaminated—if residents didn’t clean food off containers, etc. Ms. Vignaly pointed out that Mike Szechepan of Allied Waste had said our end-site is not picky and we don’t run into the question of exceeding the maximum amount of non-recyclables, so this would be a big challenge if the town opted to go single stream.

Mr. Westerling asked if SWAT had a recommendation regarding Single Stream. Ms. Doherty asked whether the convenience of recycling through single stream really increases recycling rates.

Members noted that there is no evidence of a greater reduction in trash than towns have with PAYT. Mr. Westerling remarked that the general sense from SWAT member was that Single Stream would not be favorable for the town. Ms. Doherty motioned to advise from SWAT to BOS that we not make a change toward single stream and remain with the same recycling protocol. Ms. DeRivera seconded and all approved.

Mr. Westerling said he was preparing to put out bid for solid waste collection, trash and recyclables. We can say we don't want to entertain fuel adjustments. Solid Waste collection is exempt from Procurement Laws so the town doesn't have to go out to bid, but the advice from Town Counsel is to go out to bid.

Ms. Doherty asked if we build into the contract inclusion of sports fields and schools. Mr. Westerling said that there's one less person in the Parks Commission so it would be good if the hauler would do it. He noted that currently Allied Waste does it "out of the goodness of their hearts" and members asked whether it would be good to put it into the contract or let it continue informally.

Question about Performance Incentives—the team said they didn't quite understand how this would work and this would be a good question for Ms. Congdon.

Weekly vs. Bi-weekly collection of recyclables—Mr. Westerling noted that one truck does the collecting (it saves money to run just one truck). If all recycling were collected at once, the trucks would be filled too quickly. Members agreed it would be better not to change recycling practices.

Contract with Wheelabrator: ends in 2 years.

Recycling bins: Ms. DeRivera asked if the DPW was anticipating more recycling bins, as she had been getting questions. Mr. Westerling said the town hadn't had them for about 3 years. Ms. Doherty pointed out it's good to encourage people to recycle laundry bins for that purpose, or any large containers. Ms. Doherty said that S&S gives away the banana boxes and she uses that for paper recycling.

Members agreed to meet March 29 at 10:00 am.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Submitted by,

Janet Vignaly, Secretary