

West Boylston Solid Waste Advisory Team  
*Revised* DRAFT Minutes  
October 15, 2010  
Town Hall Offices, 127 Hartwell Street

Members Present:

Julianne DeRivera , Chair  
Judy Doherty  
Elise Wellington  
John Westerling, DPW Director

Not present: Craig Gonyea

Others Present:

Julia Doherty  
Nancy Lucier (5 min.)  
Vincent Vignaly (5 min.)

The meeting began at 11: 05 a.m.

Minutes: Wellington agreed to take SWAT minutes and Doherty agreed to do so when Wellington is absent.

Solid Waste Advisory Team (SWAT) Membership and Continuance:

It was reported with much regret that SWAT member Janet Vignaly had resigned from SWAT. It was acknowledged by the committee that without her many contributions Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) would never have been adopted by the town. Wellington reported that according to the Town Clerk, the re-appointment of other members of SWAT, whose 3-year initial appointment expired in September, are automatic. These members just need to be sworn in by the Town Clerk (which was done by members present following this meeting). It was agreed that a replacement for Vignaly is needed. Doherty agreed to contact Craig Gonyea to see if he is still interested in serving on SWAT, while DeRivera will contact others who might be interested. They need to send a letter expressing interest to the Town Administrator.

The question was raised as to whether SWAT should continue. DeRivera felt that it should because there is still a lot more that could be done to reduce waste and toxins. She agreed to contact the Sustainability Committee to see if they are addressing these solid waste issues. That committee will be re-organizing next week.

New Open Meeting Law Requirements:

Westerling gave Chair DeRivera a copy of how a public meeting must now be posted, with agenda items listed, etc.

Single Stream Recycling Results:

Members expressed surprise and disappointment that the town's (July 1st) conversion to single stream recycling (where all types of recyclables - paper and containers - can be mixed together and are collected every week) had not reduced our trash tonnage, nor upped our recycling rate. Prior to our meeting, Westerling had emailed the following report, which showed this increase in trash tonnage since single stream:

### Trash Tons/Month:

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
July	121.59	122.34
August	110.18	125.16
September	117.45	137.32

Members were puzzled as to why trash had increased. Since single stream makes it easier for residents to recycle, the tonnage of trash should have gone down. The only explanation they could come up with was that the general economy had improved since a year ago and perhaps residents were therefore buying more and producing more waste. Or, perhaps Allied Waste is picking up bulky items that should not be picked up. For instance, DeRivera saw Allied Waste pick up a *whole toilet* with a PAYT bag attached. Wellington pointed out that the instructions enclosed with the PAYT bags allow this. Westerling said he would check these instructions to see if this is true. [The instructions say, "Only trash in town approved PAYT trash bags, and bulky items with a PAYT bag attached, will be picked up for disposal." No limit on size or weight of bulky items is stated.]

Westerling reported that bag fee revenues have remained the same since single stream began. The percent of waste being recycled has also remained the same (about 30%) . Tipping fees have remained the same. The only good news is that the town's collection fee has decreased about \$20,000 (from \$241,666 to \$221,700) due to our new contract with Allied Waste, a 5-year contract that began on July 1st. The town's disposal contract with Wheelabrator will expire in December, which may change our tipping fee there.

Westerling passed out a FY10 and FY11 sheet (attached) showing running totals on trash and recycling costs and revenues. The FY10 final numbers show that PAYT resulted in a net benefit to the town of \$36,140, much more than was projected and much more than was reported at the May 2010 Town Meeting. It was later agreed that this new, more positive number should be reported at the upcoming October 18th Town Meeting. Whether these additional dollars should be applied to only the trash budget was discussed and it was agreed that this is a decision that must be made by other entities - Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, School Committee, Town Meeting, etc., not SWAT.

Recycled Procurement Policy: Westerling reported that the Selectmen had passed the Recycled Procurement Policy.

#### Report to October 18, 2010 Town Meeting:

It was decided that a report to the October Town Meeting should be made updating them on the results of single stream. Since the disappointing increase in trash tonnage has occurred since single stream, Town Meeting should be urged to compost more and told that compost bins may be purchased (Home Depot) or easily constructed (Vignaly said directions are on Realgoods.com). The \$36,000 net benefit to the town in FY10 of PAYT should also be reported.

EPA Summer 2010 Bulletin Highlights Success of PAYT in West Boylston:

The Town Administrator emailed this report to SWAT. It was noted that the other nearby towns mentioned (Grafton, Shirley, and Shrewsbury) achieved a greater percentage reduction in trash after implementing PAYT than West Boylston did, perhaps due to the fact that their bag fee is higher than ours. Westerling advised against upping our bag fee as residents have already had a lot of change over the past 1 1/2 years.

Goodale Park Recycling Bins:

Wellington had emailed SWAT re the absence of recycling bins at the track/football field at Goodale Park. Instead, she saw 5 trash barrels filled with trash mixed with recyclables, disappointing since DeRivera had worked to get recycling bins there when SWAT was first formed. Westerling reported that the recycling bin was moved down to the street for Allied Waste to pick up its contents.

Bottle Bill Expansion:

Wellington reported that she had not heard of any progress that has been made in the state legislature on this bill that SWAT and the Board of Selectmen have supported. She agreed to get an update from Rep. O'Day.

RecycleBank:

Wellington reported that Southbridge had withdrawn from participation in RecycleBank, a program that a former Selectmen had urged SWAT to look into, resulting in SWAT not recommending this program for the town. Westerling reported that Casella had withdrawn from RecycleBank, too.

Next Meeting:

It was agreed that SWAT's next meeting would take place on January 7, 2011, at 11 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Submitted by,

Elise Wellington