

West Boylston Solid Waste Advisory Team (SWAT)  
October 11 2012  
Town Hall Offices, 127 Hartwell Street

Members Present:

Julianne DeRivera, Chair  
Elise Wellington

Guest: Norma Chanis

The meeting began at 4 p.m.

Minutes: The minutes for SWAT's meeting held September 7, 2012, were approved, as corrected. Chairman Julianne DeRivera will check to make sure Judy Doherty submitted to the Town Clerk and the town web site the approved minutes from our meeting on March 23, 2012.

SWAT Membership: DeRivera reported that SWAT member Mary Ambrose has resigned. She welcomed Norma Chanis, who explained that she has been a member of the town's Sustainability Committee for two years, but it has not met, and she might be interested in joining SWAT. She asked what SWAT is presently involved with. DeRivera and Wellington reviewed some of the solid waste issues SWAT has been involved with, including getting the town to adopt a Pay-You-Throw trash system and tracking its success, monitoring non-compliance, and researching how much of our glass recyclables are really being recycled. Recently, SWAT has visited the Cassella recycling center where our recyclables are sent and revised the DPW trash/recycling flyer. A new focus has been publicizing the Wachusett Watershed Regional Recycling Center and supporting the Updated Bottle Bill.

Later in the meeting, DeRivera and Wellington encouraged Chanis to join the committee as they felt she could offer SWAT a lot of relevant expertise. Having recently obtained a Master's degree in environmental studies from Antioch's program in Keene, NH, she is now volunteering as a Business Development Manager at Sustainable Business Leader in Worcester, which is headed by the leader of Clark University's M.B.A. in Sustainability program. Chanis expressed interest in furthering participation in the Wachusett Watershed Regional Recycling Center, since this would help divert bulk waste and household hazardous waste from our trash stream. She agreed to call Colleen Abrams re this. She also expressed interest in working with local businesses that are not recycling. The market for used corrugated cardboard is very good now, she said, so instead of paying to get rid of this waste, businesses should be selling it for recycling. Wellington suggested that she contact the head of the town's Economic Development Committee, Selectman John Hadley, to see if it would be interested in this project, which certainly ties in with SWAT's goals

Town Meeting - October 15, 2012: SWAT's report to this upcoming Town Meeting was discussed and it was agreed that Chair DeRivera will go over the new DPW trash/recycling flyer that was recently sent out to all households. She will emphasize that banned items, such as plastic bags and styrofoam, are often seen in recycling bins and encourage people to instead bring these items to the Wachusett Regional Recycling facility in town. She will also go over the final trash/recycling results for the fiscal year that just ended, FY12. She agreed to remind DPW Director Baruzzi to again bring the free recycling bins for distribution at Town Meeting.

Trash/Recycling Results for FY 2012: DeRivera reported that on September 17, she did send the Trash/Recycling Spreadsheet showing the net trash cost, the recycling rate, etc. for FY12 to the Town Administrator, Selectmen, and Board of Health, along with the cover letter Wellington drafted. Both are attached.

Resignation of DPW Director: DeRivera reported that DPW Director Silvio Baruzzi, who had helped SWAT with this Spreadsheet, will be leaving the town in December for a new job.

Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) Bags: DeRivera will check with Baruzzi to see if any change in the type of PAYT bag being used is planned.

Town Web Site: DeRivera will meet with Karen Pare, the town website coordinator, to see about updating SWAT's information on it.

Bottle Bill Expansion:

Wellington will check to see what is happening with the Updated Bottle Bill and whether an initiative petition is planned for 2013 to get it passed.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for Friday, December 7, at 11 AM at Town Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Submitted by,

Elise Wellington, Secretary