

West Boylston Solid Waste Advisory Team (SWAT)  
September 7, 2012  
Town Hall Offices, 127 Hartwell Street

Members Present:

Julianne DeRivera, Chair  
Elise Wellington  
Silvio Baruzzi, DPW Director

Members Absent:

Mary Ambrose

The meeting began at 10:05 a.m.

Minutes: The minutes for SWAT's meeting held May 4, 2012, drafted by Elise Wellington, were approved. 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 Judy Doherty has moved to Sterling so she can no longer be a member of our committee. DeRivera will contact Committee member Mary Ambrose to see if she still wants to be on the committee since she is unable to make our daytime meetings. Wellington said that with the committee now down to three members, one of whom cannot attend most meetings, we really need more members. Silvio Baruzzi is an ex officio member and cannot vote or count toward a quorum. DeRivera will speak to the Town Administrator about this.

New DPW flyer re Trash/Recycling Collection: Baruzzi showed the draft of the yearly DPW flyer that will go out to all residents, which DeRivera and Wellington had edited after our last meeting. He had incorporated our suggested new information re the recycling services offered at the Wachusett Watershed Regional Recycling Center. DeRivera suggested some additional changes to Baruzzi's draft. She will check with Casella to make sure they do take plastic bags in the recycling bins and get this information to Baruzzi. (She later found out that they do NOT and this information was incorporated into the flyer.)

Recycling Bins: Baruzzi reported that he gave out about 100 recycling bins at the May Town Meeting, but he has hundreds left. He will hand them out again at the October Town Meeting.

Trash/Recycling Results for FY 2012: Baruzzi had emailed SWAT the Trash/Recycling Spreadsheet for FY 2012, showing the town's trash and recycling tonnage and costs for FY12, which ended June 30, 2012. He himself had filled in all the numbers for each month, except for the collection cost. The numbers showed that the town's trash tonnage in FY2012 was 1,429.43 tons, a slight increase over the prior year's 1,421 tons. The town's recycling rate had decreased slightly to 31.22%. The revenue from the sale of PAYT bags decreased from \$152,000 in FY11 to \$145,000 in FY12, which may indicate that fewer bags were used. Wellington wondered why the FY2013 town budget upped the amount needed by the town to purchase these bags from the manufacturer if the number of bags was dropping.

Since the collection costs were not included on this Spreadsheet, Baruzzi agreed to plug this number in. This will enable the Spreadsheet to show the total gross and net cost of our trash/recycling program. It was decided to send this completed Spreadsheet to the Selectmen, Finance Committee and Board of Health with a cover letter, and also to put it on the town web site. Baruzzi will convert this document to PDF.

Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) Bags: Baruzzi reported that he had gotten complaints about the bags ripping apart where the string pulls the bag closed at the top, so he had gotten a proposal from another bag manufacturer to supply a non-string bag that ties at the top. This manufacturer's bags will cost \$11,000 less per year than the bags we are using now and are produced in Massachusetts, not South Carolina. Wellington questioned whether the complainers' bags are ripping because they're trying to stuff SO much trash into their bags that they have to pull the string really tightly and the bag then breaks because of all this pressure. Wellington felt that the tie bags Baruzzi is looking at will not be able to fully close at the top, allowing trash to fall out, and that they won't hold as much trash as the existing bag holds. She reiterated that one of the most important things the bag supplier does is to keep an honest and accurate accounting of the revenue coming in to the town from the bag sales, as well as keeping the stores supplied in a timely fashion. (It was reported, for instance, that our present bag supplier has not received adequate payment from one retailer selling the bags.) She suggested that Baruzzi contact other towns that use the proposed supplier to see if they have had any problems with him or his type of bag. Baruzzi pointed out that the proposed supplier is on the state bid list, so he felt there should not be any problems. He will check with the Town Administrator before going ahead.

He reported that the new owner of Central Street Market is now carrying the PAYT bags.

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

Wachusett Watershed Regional Recycling Center Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day: It was noted that this collection will take place September 15. Baruzzi will try to publicize it by using the town's flashing sign.

Litter: Wellington noted the increase in bottle and can litter she sees when she walks down Goodale Street toward Goodale Park. Baruzzi said that the DPW just put new recycling and trash bins at Goodale Park, but that litter there is still a problem.

Bottle Bill Expansion:

Wellington reported that the Updated Bottle Bill, which would cover bottled water, tea, sports and fruit drinks, passed for the first time in the MA Senate (as an amendment to the Jobs bill), but the House never took a vote on the bill, so it did not pass.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Submitted by,

Elise Wellington, Secretary

