

West Boylston Solid Waste Advisory Team (SWAT)
Meeting Minutes - October 10, 2013
Town Hall Offices, 127 Hartwell Street

Members Present:

Julianne DeRivera, Chair
Elise Wellington
Norma Chanis

The meeting began at 3:15 p.m.

Minutes: The minutes for SWAT's meeting held August 22, 2013 were approved

Web Site: Chairman Julianne DeRivera asked Chanis if she had finished revising SWAT info on Town's web site. Chanis reported all revisions passed along had been made but SWAT should review the pages again to see if they wanted anything else revised.

FY 2013 West Boylston Trash/Recycling Results: DeRivera reported that the DPW had still not fully filled out SWAT's Trash/Recycling Spreadsheet for Fiscal Year 2013 (which ended July 30, 2013) because they have been short-staffed (one man has been out). DeRivera asked Chanis to look into getting these numbers so that we can see how the Town did in FY13 controlling its trash tonnage and costs, as well as recycling, and report on this at the October 21st Town Meeting. Wellington pointed out that she had simplified SWAT's Spreadsheet so that it now requires only yearly numbers, as the DPW requested, and should not be difficult to plug in these numbers.

Updated Bottle Bill Petition Drive: Wellington reported that she had gone in to Boston to get the petitions to get the Updated Bottle Bill on the November 2014 state ballot. 100,000 registered voters will need to sign this petition by November 20th, when they are due at Town Clerk offices. However, the Coalition organizing the petition drive would like the signed petitions by November 3rd. She was delighted to report that our small committee had already collected over 400 signatures as of October 5th, an impressive number. Wellington and Chanis collected 167 at the Town Election on 9/17/13; Wellington and DeRivera collected 76 at the Edwards School Open House on 9/19/13; Wellington collected 62 at the Rail Trail event on 9/28/13; Chanis, DeRivera and Wellington collected 90 at the West Boylston Arts Festival on 10/5/13; and a former SWAT member collected 41.

Chanis said that she plans to collect more signatures at the Red Barn Local Food Fair in Holden, as well as the HipHipHer Race for Abby's House in West Boylston on 10/19. It was agreed that Wellington and Chanis would collect signatures at the Boy Scout Recycling project at Edwards School on 10/12 and that Chanis, Wellington, and DeRivera would arrive early at the Town Meeting on 10/21 to gather more signatures. [note: Chanis was unable to attend the Race 10/19]

Goals for Upcoming Year: Suggested goals for the upcoming year included: Finish revising SWAT's web page; increase our recycling rate (once we find out what it was in FY13); get Updated Bottle Bill on ballot and passed; look into whether West Boylston's "Buy Recycled" town policy is being implemented, and if so where? and how much? Chanis will ask the Town

Administrator what he feels SWAT's goals should be when she meets with him tomorrow on town's sustainability efforts.

Single-stream Recycling: *Boston Globe Magazine* article "Out of Sorts," by Barbara Moran, July 14, 2013: Because she had been spending so much time getting bottle bill petition signatures, Wellington reported that she had still not done this assignment, namely a short summary of this long article, with article attached, to send to Town Administrator Leon Gaumond, Selectmen, Finance Committee, and DPW Director. This should include our hope that they will support the petition drive for the Updated Bottle Bill, which will add water bottles, iced tea, fruit and sports drink containers to the bottle bill. Wellington again agreed to draft summary and DeRivera will send it.

This article, [which Chanis showed to Town Administrator the day after our meeting] reveals that single-stream recycling results in a much more contamination of recyclables than when recyclables are picked up in separate bins for paper and containers. This contamination results in recyclables being rejected for re-use by buyers and ending up in landfills or incinerators. This article confirmed SWAT's long-held fear (since single-stream was instituted in town) that many of our recyclables may not actually be recycled. It also confirmed that containers returned under the bottle bill have much less contamination and are far more likely to be recycled. The article states that "...for every 100 tons of single-stream recyclables collected, only about 75 tons gets made into new products. The rest ends up in landfills or incinerators.Only about 60% of single-stream glass can be turned into high-quality products like bottles or fiberglass.... By contrast, 98% of deposit [bottle bill] glass can be recycled back into glass bottles." Expanding the Bottle Bill to include water bottles, iced tea, fruit and sports drinks, as the Updated Bottle Bill will do, will reduce the contamination problems caused when these containers are put into single stream recycling programs (as they are now).

Report to October 21st Town Meeting: DeRivera asked Chanis to make this report, hopefully having obtained the Spreadsheet information on how the town did in FY13, showing trash tonnage, our recycling rate, and net costs of our trash program. Chanis mentioned that very few at the Arts Festival seemed to know about the many things that can be recycled at the Wachusett Recycling Center in West Boylston, so it was agreed she should mention that and SWAT's efforts to get the Updated Bottle Bill passed.

The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.

Submitted by,

Elise Wellington, Secretary