

West Boylston Solid Waste Advisory Team (SWAT)
Meeting Minutes - August 22, 2013
Town Hall Offices, 127 Hartwell Street

Members Present:

Julianne DeRivera, Chair
Elise Wellington
Norma Chanis

The meeting began at 1 p.m.

Minutes: The minutes for SWAT's meeting held October 11, 2012 were approved. Its meeting scheduled for December 7, 2012 was canceled.

Web Site: Chairman Julianne DeRivera reported that she and Norma Chanis had been working on revising SWAT info on Town's web site and met with Town web site coordinator Karen Pare. Chanis agreed to finalize this project and report back to DeRivera by August 26th.

FY 2013 West Boylston Trash/Recycling Results: Wellington asked if DPW had filled out SWAT's Trash/Recycling Spreadsheet for Fiscal Year 2013 (which ended July 30, 2013) so that we could see how the Town was doing in controlling trash tonnage and costs, as well as recycling. DeRivera said this Spreadsheet asks for information on a monthly basis, which is difficult for DPW to provide as it does not get this info in this format. Wellington agreed to simplify the Spreadsheet so that it only asks for yearly totals. After she re-formats Spreadsheet, DeRivera will ask DPW to fill it in with FY 2013 figures.

Single-stream Recycling: *Boston Globe Magazine* article "Out of Sorts," by Barbara Moran, July 14, 2013: This article, which DeRivera sent to SWAT, 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."

It was agreed that a short summary of this long article, with article attached, should be sent 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 (see below). Wellington agreed to draft summary and DeRivera will send it.

Updated Bottle Bill: It was reported that once again the MA Senate passed the Updated Bottle Bill, but the MA House of Representatives refused to vote on it. Proponents are now going to gather 100,000 signatures (by Dec. 4, 2013) to get it on the November 2014 state ballot so that

West Boylston Solid Waste Advisory Team (SWAT) Minutes
August 22, 2013
Page Two

voters can pass it. SWAT unanimously agreed to support this effort. As mentioned above, expanding the Bottle Bill to include water bottles, iced tea, fruit and sports drinks will reduce the contamination problems caused when these containers are put into single stream recycling programs, as they are now. DeRivera suggested gathering signatures at the two upcoming Town Meetings - Sept. 9th and Oct. 21st. She will call Town Moderator for permission. Chanis suggested gathering signatures at Wachusett Recycling Center events in its member towns and will look into this. Wellington agreed to find out when the petitions will be ready and get them (with different ones for different towns).

Wachusett Recycling Center: Chanis reported on the many recycling services at this Center, where she volunteers and serves on the board.

Apartment Recycling: Chanis reported that she had not yet gotten a list of apartments in town (which are not served by our municipal trash collector), nor their collectors and whether they offer recycling. Their trash and recycling numbers do not affect our municipal recycling rate.

School "Green" efforts: Chanis reported on Clark University's "sustainability" efforts that she participated in with West Boylston's elementary and high school. The elementary school became quite involved, the high school less so.

DPW 2013 - 2014 Trash Collection/Recycling Flyer: The Committee reviewed this yearly flyer that recently went out to residents and thought it looked good. New info on both paint/chemical collection dates and document shredding dates at Wachusett Recycling Center had been added. Also, info on sharps mail back program.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for Friday, **October 10, 2013 at 10 AM** at Town Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

Submitted by,

Elise Wellington, Secretary

