

SWAT meeting 5/13/15
West Boylston Town Hall

Attendees: Julianne deRivera, Chairman
Elise Wellington
Kathy Fahy

The meeting began at 7:05 p.m.

- Minutes from SWAT's March 26, 2015, meeting were approved.
- SWAT members shared information on disposal and collection contracts and wrote up our Annual Report to present at Town Meeting. Presentation at Town Meeting to include information on recycling rates, trash tonnage, decreased costs, and SWAT's goals for next year.
- We will suggest that a reminder that styrofoam and plastic bags are not recyclable be included on the 2015-2016 trash schedule that is sent to all residents.
- There were problems getting the correct existing trash and disposal contracts, which were up for renewal. Various copies of contracts were worded differently, but had the same dates and signatures. We did finally get the correct copies and made extensive comments (attached) to the Board of Selectmen, as requested by the Town Administrator. The Selectmen voted to renew the existing contracts, a process which did not allow for any of the changes suggested by SWAT.
- SWAT submitted its FY 2014 Annual Report (attached) and its FY 2014 Trash/Recycling Spreadsheet (attached) for the Town's FY 2014 Annual Report.
- SWAT is concerned that the end result of single stream recycling is not as good as we thought because of contamination due to these recyclables being mixed together in the same container and due to trash sometimes being put in with the recyclables. According to recent studies, it's possible to lose 25% of usable recyclable material due to contamination.
- We will ask DPW Director Anthony Sylvia for copies of our new disposal and collection contracts and will ask him to find the percentage of recyclables rejected by contamination.
- We will also talk with Mr. Sylvia about ideas to increase recycling from businesses and apartments.
- There was concern about pesticide spraying in town. SWAT would like information on what pesticides are being sprayed, and on the long-term toxicity of these chemicals over 5 and 10 years.
- Norma will look into applying for a TURI (Toxics Use Reduction Institute) Grant. This is a grant made available by UMass Lowell for community organizations, municipal departments and small businesses to create and promote healthier communities by raising awareness and educating people about safer alternatives to toxics.
- SWAT will meet at 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of every other month - July, September, November, January, March and May.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Fahy
SWAT Secretary

Attachments: March 27, 2015, letter re trash contracts to Leon Gaumond and Board of Selectmen and FY 2014 SWAT Annual Report and Trash/Recycling Spreadsheet