

Pay As You Throw Working Group
Online Meeting January 19, 2021
Called to Order 3:00 p.m.

Attendance: Laurie Bent, Chair, Select Board; David Ayer; Tom Darling; Elisabeth DiPietro, MD, Board of Health; Philip Saunders; Leon Gaumond, Town Manager; Julia Greene, Municipal Assistance Coordinator for MassDEP; Jackie Jackson, Division of Solid Waste and Recycling Supervisor; and Tom Cullen, Public Works Director

Guests: Debbie Slotpole, Sustainable Weston Action Group

1. Public Comments- deferred
2. Minutes of previous meeting approved (David Ayer, Philip Saunders, seconded, passed unanimously)
 - Elisabeth DiPietro selected to take minutes
3. Jackie Jackson update:
 - Jackie Jackson updated on composting that is now at 5 bins per week (\$15/bin). That is double what it would cost to put into waste stream.
 - Composting will eventually pay off as Weston has a good deal with tipping now and that will go up so we need to reduce HH waste
 - Tom Cullen also feels that food waste will soon be banned from waste stream so Weston will be well prepared
 - Testing the PAYT bags- will be available at the transfer station, 14 gal (kitchen trash bag). Tom Darling recommended thicker size. Julia recommended offering both 14 and 25-30 gal bag at different costs. We will all analyze our own trash to determine weekly output. Philip Saunders recommended weighing compost and trash.
 - Jackie provided bulky waste update- waiting for equipment from state.
 - Tom Cullen reviewed staffing shortages due to COVID
4. PAYT timing and roll out- Laurie would like to present to Select Board in March. Tom would like to tie fees to fiscal year- easily accomplished if we go to bag fee and no transfer station stickers
5. Tom Darling presented his model- the more people use the transfer station the more costs that are covered. PAYT is more equitable- those who throw away more pay more. Discussion about brush dump fees if stickers are free. Laurie suggested deferring brush dump discussion and concentrate on sticker fee vs no sticker fee. Discussion about having a resident sticker that you get when pay your excise taxes that you can use for transfer station access.
 - Leon would like to talk about logistics of obtaining town permit/sticker, mechanics of how do residents obtain the permit (ie town hall, mail, etc)
 - Tom Darling made a motion to recommend PAYT models that have no sticker fees and higher bag costs, seconded by Philip Saunders, passed unanimously
 - Further discussion about Tom's model, goal to cover at least 70% of transfer station cost
6. Community outreach and education discussion- Discussed first educating that waste is a problem that needs to be addressed. Various means such as SWAG and social media, as well as presenting at COA and having information available at transfer station. Alison Muzila and Jackie are working on a Wes-Ten episode around Earth Day. Debbie Slotpole from SWAG will be assisting and would love some data on Weston about waste issues. She can also research town data on mass.gov.
7. Date of next meeting Thursday, Feb 25th 7 PM-9 PM