

**Dover Recycling Committee Meeting
Minutes for November 4, 2013 (Approved)**

Present: Tracy Boehme, Mike Kinchla, Chris Poulsen, Matthew Schmid, Savita Shukla, and Amy Wilcox

Absent: Becky Sommer-Petersen

Additional Attendees: John O'Keefe, Craig Hughes

Guest Presenters: Kathi Mirza, Bill Clarke

Administrative

- September 13, 2013 minutes approved.

Meeting Agenda

- I. Kathi Mirza, MassDEP Regional Municipal Assistance Coordinator will speak to best waste reduction and recycling practices
- II. Bill Clarke, Town of Dover Webmaster will speak to newly assigned official town email address
- III. December meeting plan

I. Ms. Mirza introduced herself as Municipal Assistance Coordinator serving 44 communities, helping municipalities reach their goals of **reducing waste overall**, as well as **diverting from the waste stream** through recycling. Ms. Mirza offered that depending on a town's goals, much information and support is available.

Ms. Mirza presented a map of state of Massachusetts with each town color coded to indicate trash tonnage (excluding Recyclables) - per household, per year, according to 2011 data. The categories were:

- Less than 750 lbs/yr
- 751 – 1000 lbs/yr
- 1001 – 1250 lbs/yr
- 1251 – 1500 lbs/yr
- 1501 – 1750 lbs/yr
- 1751 – 2000 lbs/yr
- 2001 – 2250 lbs/yr**
- Greater than 2250 lbs/yr

Dover was in the **second highest** category, reflecting **2001-2250 lbs/yr/household, assuming approximately 3 members per household (consistent w/ latest census data)**.

Discussion ensued as to methodology/accuracy/analysis of numbers.

Some of the following notes were made on how the numbers were arrived at, and how they may be affected positively or negatively:

- The numbers are self-reported by towns.
- Trash collection programs vary between towns – Curbside Collection, Transfer Stations, Pay As You Throw (PAYT).
- Across all towns, data reflects household waste only - Dover's data necessarily include some construction and demolition (C&D) weight as our Transfer Station accepts C&D from homeowners.
- 1/3 of Dover's population uses a private hauler (Dover Trucking) that uses the Transfer Station for trash only. The understanding is that recycles are separated out, but go elsewhere.

- Trash from the School System and Businesses are not reflected in our overall data in Dover.

Discussion ensued comparing stats on surrounding towns, and contributing factors to their success, or challenges.

Importantly, Ms. Mirza discussed the veracity of focusing on **waste reduction** as first priority, followed by increasing recycling rates. Increasing rates of recycling alone can be mistakenly reassuring, but must be seen within the greater context of overall levels of waste production. Ms. Mirza emphasized the environmental and economic advantage of reusing already mined resources, diverting materials from the waste stream and only incinerating as the final use of material.

Ms. Mirza highlighted that depending on a municipality's waste reduction goals (zero waste, or measured/gradual reduction in waste), programmatic changes are available which she can offer follow up materials and statistics on.

Overall, **incentivizing** waste reduction is key to success. Ms. Mirza offered following considerations:

- Ms. Mirza suggested that some towns have mandatory recycling (in addition to the Massachusetts State Waste Ban law which is in effect). Town ordinance with fee/fine structure for residents, businesses, haulers to comply. Ms. Mirza reported among 351 total communities in State, 88 have mandatory recycling and 65 regulate their haulers.
- Ms. Mirza reported high success rates with Pay As You Throw programs. An obvious correlation between PAYT and lower levels of waste tonnage per household was illustrated on the map presented.

Craig Hughes advised the group that a number of years ago a Report was conducted by the Board of Selectman on PAYT the findings of which may be relevant to the discussion. Mr. Hughes suggests that it is housed, and can be viewed at the town Library.

- Ms. Mirza also reported a trend in communities hiring a coordinator to help meet compliance

Should large programmatic changes be deemed difficult, Ms. Mirza offered up many ways in which to chip away at the waste stream through enhanced education and adding collection opportunities for specific items. Her observations from a walk through at Dover's Transfer Station in May 2013 and suggestions were:

- Very organized Transfer Station, very clean product
- Good partnership with Town of Wellesley
- Food waste program is a huge asset – publicize to make sure residents take advantage of
- Worth checking that e-Waste Vendors are certified e-waste processors for safe management of personal information/id theft and environmentally sound practices of disposal. See list @ MassDEP
- Electronics – publicize to residents that Best Buy will take televisions up to 29".
- Container for Books & other media – after Wade clears from Mary's Swap Shop there are better alternatives than tossing in paper recycle. "More than Words" organization for example.
- Bulky Rigid Plastics (barrels, crates, toy structures) – ask Wellesley or EL Harvey

- Mattresses – grants are available to collect mattresses. Sherborn did it recently. Conigliaro as a possible vendor. May not save money, but won't cost too much and will recycle.
- Clean Wood Waste – not painted or pressure treated. Norfolk recently got a grant to do event.
- Textile Fiber Industry Markets are strong now – check with Salvation Army, Red Cross to see what they will take, chances are they take more than the residents think. Taking all kinds of scraps, more than most realize
- Plastic bags should go back to stores – Roche Bros, Whole Foods take
- Paper Shredding Events – Walpole did one recently – vendor brings in Industrial shredder

II. Bill Clarke, Town of Dover Webmaster briefed the recycling committee on proper and acceptable use of a newly established doverma.org email account for use by the DRC. With the establishment of an email account for the committee chair, there is now an account from which official committee communications can be sent/received and additional email addresses can be set-up for that one account to facilitate the receipt of input from the public. It is the DRC's intent to immediately establish an email address of recycle@doverma.org to be provided as a primary means of contact for input, suggestions, questions on the Doverma.org website and on several of the signs at the Transfer Station. Mr. Clarke, gave the committee instructions for setting up the formal email account which will be in the name of the current Committee Chair.

III. Next meeting - December 9 - will be dedicated to updating the DRC's mission and priorities and to setting its initiatives for 2014. Committee members were asked to review and consider any changes/improvements they would recommend and which they would like to champion. The broad areas of initiative for 2013 were as follows:

1. School Program
2. DRC Program/Policy
3. Transfer Station
4. Community Outreach
5. Mission Update