

Meeting Notes

PAYT Workgroup Meeting

2/25/20

In attendance:

Tom Darling	Yes	Laurie Bent	Yes
Philip Saunders	Yes	Elisabeth DePietro	Yes
Jacquelyn Jackson	Yes	David Ayer	Yes
Julia Greene	Yes	Leon Gaumond	Yes
Tom Cullen	Yes		

Meeting Schedule Changes:

Meeting previously scheduled for 3/31/20 @ 4:30pm now scheduled for 4/7/20 @4:30pm

Additional Meeting scheduled for 4/28/20 @ 4:30pm

Review of prior meeting:

Meeting notes from January 28, 2020 introduced and reviewed.

Motion to accept the notes as presented. Seconded.

Unanimously approved. Motion passed.

Review of PAYT Community Experience of Neighbor Towns (by Laurie Bent):

Julia Greene Table of PAYT communities over time

Municipality	PAYT Start Date	Trash Service	CY 2010	CY 2011	CY 2012	CY 2013	CY 2014	CY 2015	CY 2016	CY 2017	CY 2018	Avg 3 yr Pre PAYT tons/HH	Avg Post PAYT tons/HH	% Change Post/Pre
			Tons per HH	Tons per HH	Tons per HH	Tons per HH	Tons per HH	Tons per HH	Tons per HH	Tons per HH	Tons per HH	Tons per HH		
Acton	Drop-off	2015		1.02	0.96	0.93	0.96	0.90	0.89	0.83	0.80	0.95	0.74	-22%
Adams	Drop-off	2017								0.01	0.13			
Browline	Drop-off	2013	0.54	0.74	0.70	0.59	0.34	0.35	0.32	0.29	0.31	0.86	0.36	-45%
Brookline	Curbside	2017	0.76	0.71	0.70	0.64	0.70	0.71	0.65	0.64	0.61	0.89	0.64	-7%
Chicopee	Both	2017	0.92	0.89	0.84	0.74	0.73	0.72	0.72	0.59	0.62	0.72	0.60	-16%
Dunstable	Curbside	2018	0.67	0.86	0.96			0.48	0.50	0.63	0.79	0.54	0.79	46%
Hanson	Drop-off	2014	0.96	0.90	0.78	0.80	0.59	0.57	0.57	0.56	0.58	0.82	0.41	-50%
Heath	Drop-off	2017	0.88	0.96	0.91	0.78	0.71	0.78	0.66	0.53	0.58	0.72	0.65	-9%
Hinsdale	Drop-off	2017	1.17	1.00	0.99	0.87	0.93	0.97	0.93	0.66	0.69	0.94	0.57	-39%
Newbury	Drop-off	2013	0.99											
Norwell	Curbside	2016	1.06	0.98	1.06	1.07	1.07	1.02	0.88	0.70	0.71	1.05	0.77	-27%
Peru	Drop-off	2016	0.68	0.73	0.66	0.88	0.64	0.67	0.54	0.70	0.62	0.88	0.64	-6%
Plymouth	Drop-off	2013	1.27	1.29	1.18	0.90	0.73	0.63	0.73	0.82	0.71	1.24	0.75	-39%
Rockport	Drop-off	2018	1.62	0.86	0.82	0.86	0.91	0.90	0.68	0.87	0.72	0.88	0.72	-19%
Sharon	Curbside	2018	1.20	1.48	0.97	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.92	0.91	0.85	0.92	0.83	-8%
Tolland	Drop-off	2017								0.22	0.13			
Waren	Drop-off	2013	1.00		0.95		0.57	0.61	0.57	0.49	0.64	0.97	0.57	-42%
Westfield	Drop-off	2013	0.59	0.54	0.56	0.59	0.40	0.38	0.36	0.74	0.75	0.58	0.35	-39%
Weston	Drop-off	TBD	1.22	1.21	1.24	1.06	1.06	0.98	0.95	0.94	0.83	0.91		
TOTAL AVG TONS/HH												12.36	9.42	-24%
AVG PAYT/HH												0.82	0.63	-24%

Avg drop of PAYT HH tons 24% pre to post, but noted that some of drop was baseline for all towns.

Review of PAYT trial in Weston:

Complaints – Convenience (Bag size, bag availability, cost, will not work), General pushback (Change, not town's role, etc.)

47% "self-reported" throwing less trash

PAYT Tons/HH/Mo .023 vs .089 Non-PAYT during trial.

General Trends:

Recycling up 33% (FY16) – 42% (FY19)

Trash Down

Have removed wood and textiles, improved signage, Cable station education, online education, bulky plastics, deposit bottles, optimized (vs. routine) pickups, etc.

(See Agenda notes and related materials for details)

Feedback / Results / Requests from residents to Town in response to PAYT Trial:

More options for Education, Compost, Styrofoam

PAYT Pilot was driven (in part) by belief that DEP could mandate tons/hh in future. Where does that stand?

Julia Greene- There is not a mandate on Trash per HH and one is not planned currently

PAYT pilot was not set up to show PAYT potential. Self-selection bias in trial pools, and self-reporting of results as evidence, etc. Pilot did not show a benefit, but did have interesting insights including family size, trash per HH, etc.

PAYT Mandate Question:

Group recognizes that PAYT:

- Will be challenging
- Will take time to educate

Some members favor starting with smaller steps, and voluntary opportunities to reduce trash with PAYT as the longer-term goal.

Current system like a buffet – all you can throw. Current system encouraging waste.

Transfer Station currently supported by an unspecified amount of tax dollars (% unavailable) leading to questions of fairness.

Need to head in the direction of PAYT. Need to start charging for bulky waste.

One member not convinced PAYT required or will deliver results justifying changes. Need more data. Requested trash audit to benchmark need and future improvement. In favor of smaller steps including compost and dealing with bulky waste.

Question of PAYT unit of measure was raised – Some members would like to consider alternative means of measuring waste (weight vs bag, etc.)

Alt view on using weight as measure for PAYT - Weighing = complexity. Convenience factor is a “big thing.” Focus groups / public meetings to gauge preferences (bags vs. weighing).

Bulky waste discussion:

Bulky waste is believed to be a top issue for the transfer station. Weston does not know how much bulky waste it processes, but it is believed to be significant. Upcoming regulations (Mattresses banned from waste streams) could have implications for Weston.

Transition issues on Bulky waste –

Deadlines create risk of a rush at expiry date.

Bulky waste fees can create issues with swap shed. Could cause “trash” being placed in swap shed. Furniture was highlighted as a problematic item for the swap shed.

Current swap shed too small, no lights, poorly managed. Should Weston upgrade swap shed and increase oversight as part of a bulky waste proposal?

Opportunity to partner with charities for bulky item (IE furniture) pickup?

General Questions and commentary:

More options to allow reduction of waste stream and increased recycling (styrofoam, compost, etc.).

A review of the transfer station “business model” more broadly was suggested.

Question regarding costs to residents?

How does Weston benchmark vs. best in class municipal websites/information (Newton & Arlington used as peer examples)? Not well. There are a lot of things that can be improved. (Julia Greene)

Opportunity to partner with neighbor town? Wellesley opportunity to combine on recycle streams?

Audience Question:

(Henry Viles, Conant Road, Weston, MA) At what point does Weston lose customers from implementing PAYT? How will the town deal with fixed costs if paying users decline? Based on his conversations, many users are likely to move to private haulers. There is a concern that the public will not be considered. There should be input/vote.

Proposals:

Motion #1 – Laurie Bent, Chair

Propose that Weston pursue Pay-as-You-Throw and use the next year and to refine the specifics for implementation in 2021.

Seconded: David Ayer

All but Tom Darling in favor. Motion passed.

Motion #2 - Elisabeth DePietro - I move to recommend the town implement fees for bulky waste beginning in September 2020.

Second: Philip Saunders

Unanimously accepted. Motion passed.

Appendix:

David Ayer introduced weight measuring devices as a proposed system for billing residents for trash use.