Recycling & Solid Waste Committee Report to Selectmen

March 30, 2015

Members: Ann Wiedie, Dave Harmon, Don Stewart, Mary Wong, MaryAnn P, Tom S, Bill Rousseau

Advisors: Tom Cullen, DPW; Carolyn Dann, MassDEP
Overview

• Why?
• Bulky Waste Question
• SMART/PAYT
  – Key Questions
  – How Does Weston Compare?
  – Key Transfer Station Facts
  – Rationale and Expected Results of Pilot
  – Details, Logistics, Costs of Pilot
• Other Recommendations
Comparing Weston

How Much Trash Did We Throw Out in 2013?

Pounds per Household per Year

- SMART / PAYT: 1,251 - 1,500
- no data: 1,501 - 1,750
- no municipal program: 1,751 - 2,000
- < 750
- 751 - 1,000
- 1,001 - 1,250
- 1,251 - 1,500
- 1,501 - 1,750
- 1,751 - 2,000
- 2,001 - 2,250
- > 2,250

SMART Avg. - 1094 lbs/HH
Non-SMART Avg. - 1744 lbs/HH

Map by David Quinn; Tonnage/HH Data from MassDEP CY2013 Solid Waste and Recycling Survey & DEP Municipal Assistance Coordinators; Massachusetts Municipal Boundaries from MassGIS
Key Financial Data

- $102.47/T to transport and dispose of trash
- $ 26.14/T to transport and manage recyclables
- $ 0.00/T to handle donations, avoided waste
- $230/Yr = FY15 Sticker fee
- $140/Yr = FY15 Sticker fee for those over 65
- 1930 Tons Solid Waste in FY13
- 1750 Households using TS in FY13
- 2205 pounds of solid waste per household
- No separate fees except for TVs
Weston
DEP enforcement

MassDEP
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs
Department of Environmental Protection
One Winter Street Boston, MA 02108 • 617-292-5500

Charles D. Baker
Governor
Karyn E. Polito
Lieutenant Governor

Matthew A. Beaton
Secretary
Martin Suuberg
Commissioner

Gary Davis
Town of Carlisle
P.O. Box 149
Carlisle, MA 01741

Re: NOTICE OF NONCOMPLIANCE: NON-BO-15-4006
Mass DEP Facility ID#: 39141

Noncompliance with M.G.L. Chapter 111 and 310 CMR 19.000
Violation of Waste Ban

Observed At:
Wheelabrator North Andover
285 Holt Road
North Andover, MA 01845

Solid Waste – Waste Ban Compliance
Reasons to like SMART/PAYT

• Households get control over own costs
  – Sticker fees reduced to $75/yr
  – Bags sold for solid waste at $1 for “tall kitchen”
  – Users determine their own total cost

• Direct Incentive to Reduce Waste for TS Users
  – 144 other municipalities in MA
  – Over 7000 programs across the US

• Fairness and Equity
  – Similar to electric or gas bill; those who have more trash pay more to dispose of it.
  – Those who recycle avidly benefit from their efforts.
Key Questions

• Would SMART work in Weston to reduce the solid waste generated?
• Is there more reduction possible in Bulky Waste or in “bag-able” waste?
Bulky Waste Research

• Is most of the “extra” waste in Weston “Bulky Waste” or “bag-able” waste?

• Research project:
  – April 10-11: RSWC members will staff the TS and ask users to separate BW into one hopper and “bag-able” waste into the other. The two hoppers will be weighed separately to determine the % of BW
  – If warranted, RSWC will repeat this another week
  – RSWC may return with recommendations on BW fees
Why a SMART Pilot?

• It is possible that the excess amounts of solid waste is mostly from Bulky Waste items. If so, the RSWC might recommend fees for BW.

• It is possible that Weston residents already recycle as much as possible and there are other sources of the excess waste.

• It is possible that Weston residents will NOT respond as others do to the price signal provided by SMART/PAYT.
Expected Results from Pilot

• If residents respond to SMART/PAYT, we would expect to see a 20% or more less solid waste (SW) per household.

• During the pilot, participants will also put their Bulky Waste (BW) items on a separate truck. BW will be weighed separately to determine proportion of BW vs SW.

• Recycling will increase but not account for entire amount of reduction in SW.
Proposed Logistics, Costs

• 6-12 months (starting in October or April)
• Special sticker holders use separate truck to drop specially designated bags for SW and separate truck for BW
• Daily weighing
• Bags sold at local retailer, no mark-up, purchased by Town, revenues go to Town.
• Accounting, tracking, storage and delivery handled by bag vendor.
Selection of Pilot Participants

• 10-15% of TS users = goal;
• Wide ranging outreach;
• Invite participants representing all household sizes; check against town census records to ensure sample represents the town.
Pilot Costs

- DPW indicated they can find trucks to accept SMART participants SW and BW,
- DPW found location such that there is no need for added staff or overtime
- Cost of bags = Reimbursed when users buy
- Sticker cost = same as Town normally pays just need to design a separate PILOT sticker
- Bag revenue ($1/bag) will replace the lost sticker revenue so likely no net cost for pilot.
  - If trash drops, fewer bags sold but also lower tip fees
  - If trash doesn’t drop, more bags sold covers higher tip fees
Possible Timeline

• April – BW research
• May – solicit SMART/PAYT Pilot participants
• June, July – Finalize logistics
• August – Order bags
• September – sell stickers
• October – start pilot
• January – report on 1st 3 months
• April – Report on 6 months’ results and recommendation for next year
• June – BOS decision on recommendations
Other Recommendations

- Enforcement
- New Signage and Outreach
- Textiles
- Expanded Swap Shed
- Electronic Waste
- Food Waste