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June Board Meeting notes

Breakfast at our June meeting was sponsored by **Spiegel South Shore Scrap**. A last minute scheduling issue prevented principal **Tony Pusateri** from speaking, but he sent informational and other materials through his neighbor Ellie Donovan. He will speak at our August 4 meeting. Managers from two of our towns that use Spiegel's scrap metal recycling service indicated long term satisfaction.

EBoard elections: The Board elected the following members to lead the SSRC in FY17:

Chairman - **Sharon White**, Abington

Vice Chair - **Merle Brown** (incumbent), Cohasset

Treasurer - **Mary Snow** (incumbent), Cohasset

Secretary - **Gene Wyatt**, Kingston

Mr. Basler rescinded his nomination for Vice Chair in the only contested race before the vote.

Director Galkowski presented a plaque to **Mr. Bob O'Connor** in appreciation of his three years

of service as Secretary, and will present one to **Mr. Kevin Cafferty** for three years as Chairman. **Ms. White** and **Mr. Wyatt** shared highlights of their backgrounds, and assumed their new roles. Looking at the new EBoard's names, I know there's a joke in there somewhere.

Spring HHW review- We broke records for participation at our seven spring events: 1305 cars, and 163 visitors. The average per car cost was lowest since 2003, at \$38.36. We resolved some challenges regarding quantity assessments with Stericycle.

The **fall season** begins on September 17 in Whitman. Hanson will join Abington and Whitman in a new three-town rotation.

Recycling Education and Compliance Officer grant scope– Director Galkowski presented a draft outline of how a RECO contractor, to be hired with an \$82,000 grant awarded by MassDEP last fall could assist Member towns. She is still negotiating the scope with MassDEP, and seeks input from a curbside and dropoff manager.

This would be a 21 month contract position. Questions arose regarding Workers Comp, Liability, and applicability of Prevailing Wage. Director will investigate if scoping negotiations succeed.

DEP will have requirements for towns to use the RECO, including staff and regulatory support.

Current enforcement issues, methods: one town's TS staff is cautious approaching residents about the way they dispose/recycle, due to past instances of residents threatening staff. Police enforcement may be necessary for disposal compliance.

Hingham records license plates of violators, and communicates by mail.



Abington's Enforcement Coordinator, **Lorraine Mavrogeorge**, is able to educate without altercations. She has run into one defiant person, but reports that most everyone is fine. She is working with the hauler to target worst offenders, and tagging carts with new "no trash", "no plastic bags" stickers, and providing a more detailed explanation in the mailbox. The effort is succeeding in reducing plastic bags in recycling.

Abington uses cameras for compost area, cites regulation prohibiting illegal dumping.

Website launch – **Karen Quigley** of **KQuigley Designs** has worked with the Director for 2 months to upgrade the whole SSRC website, which is very large, to a new platform. She demonstrated the reorganized and redesigned site, which has since gone "live". She taught Director Galkowski how to manage it after the meeting.

Director Galkowski thanked her for doing a very thorough job on a very limited budget. The Board was very pleased. Check it out, and bookmark it at <http://ssrcoop.info>

Surplus compost– Mr. Basler has a large surplus of leaves and grass clippings at various stages of composting. Ms. Mavrogeorge was able to sell their surplus last year, but unable to find buyer for unscreened material this year. Both towns seek outlets. Wicklow (one of the SSRC grinding contractors) doesn't want material. The Director will make some inquiries.

We have a new MAC! Welcome Todd Koep

Director Galkowski, our former DEP Municipal Assistance Coordinator (MAC) **Janine Delaney**, MAC **Kathi Mirza** and Halifax Recycling Manager **Susan Johnston** interviewed two very qualified candidates to fill our area's MAC position last month. **Todd Koep** was offered and accepted the challenge.



Todd has worked in the trash and recycling biz for over 20 years, in the private sector and as an entrepreneur, most recently with Nauset Disposal. He is well familiar with the area and the stakeholders, and solid waste issues in general.

Todd has deep experience managing hauler collection routes, C&D and waste audits. He also has extensive knowledge of recycling and solid waste contracts, single stream and dual stream recycling, MRF operations, recycling and disposal markets and household hazardous waste collection events. He has been very involved in food waste diversion efforts on the Cape.

The Town of **Halifax** will continue to host the position through a grant from MassDEP for salary, travel and administrative expenses. Todd will work from the Town of Halifax's Recycling Center in an office alongside Susan Johnston and Jim Keegan. He hit the ground running on July 11.

Todd has already contacted many of our managers, and will meet our Board at our August 4 meeting in Abington.

MassDEP's MACs provide technical assistance to municipalities to increase recycling, composting, waste reduction, household hazardous waste diversion and regional cooperation.

Contact Todd at 781.293.1775 (office), 508-280-4037 (mobile), or tkoep@town.halifax.ma.us.

Norwell launches automated PAYT cart collection

Cascades distributed 35 gallon trash and 64 gallon recycling carts to each Norwell household last week as the Town prepares to begin its new Pay as You Throw program on August 1. The new program was inspired by a doubling of Norwell's Tier One tip fee at SEMASS. Now seven of our fourteen SSRC Member Towns use this volume-based trash fee system.

Residents who cannot fit all their trash in the 35 gallon cart with the lid closed must place excess trash in PAYT bags, available at local retailers. A sleeve of 5-32 gallon bags costs \$10.

According to Board of Health Office Manager **Ben Margo**, cart distribution by Cascades started off very well. He was impressed with their obvious experience. He and hauler Republic did some mailings in advance of the distribution. As expected, the BOH is receiving a lot of calls from confused (and a few unhappy) residents.

For more info, click [here](#).

Recycling required of private Plymouth haulers

by [Frank Mand](#) , Wickedlocal Plymouth, July 27, 2016

PLYMOUTH – If you are one of over 9,000 town (households) who use the town’s municipal solid waste services – paying for either curbside pickup or to use the Manomet Transfer Station – you are probably recycling at a high rate. After all, the more you recycle the less you pay for orange bags.

But what if you live in an apartment complex, or have a business at a strip mall? Are you required to recycle on your own? Is the building owner required to provide a recycling option? Or does the responsibility lie with the hauler?

Yes, yes and yes.

Under state law, reinforced by a new town regulation that took effect May 1 of this year, there are certain items that you cannot legally throw into the trash. Landlords offering trash service may only hire a company that is permitted by the town, which, in turn, requires the hauler to provide recycling services. [more](#)

What to do with a potentially explosive hoverboard?

Whitman’s Loni Bezanson posed the Question of the Month to the Director recently: How should residents dispose of last holiday season’s “hottest” item, the infamous exploding hoverboards?

I did some digging, and learned that:

Lower priced hoverboards were equipped with cheaply made chargers that don’t know when to stop charging.

When coupled with a cheaply made lithium-ion battery that doesn’t know when to stop accepting a charge, and/or can’t properly dissipate excess heat, the battery may become overcharged. This can result in heat buildup. If it shorts out or crashes into something, all that stored chemical energy goes KABOOM. (This is the simple explanation, it is actually a little [more complicated](#))



Lisa Baciewicz at **PC Survivors** advised that her company can recycle the hoverboards, but residents must **REMOVE THE BATTERIES** (similar to a cordless phone battery), which can be recycled with [rechargeable batteries](#). Charged batteries should be run down before removal in a safe place, just in case.

SE MRC June meeting: Enterprise Funds

The June Southeast Municipal Recycling Council meeting provided presentations about **Solid Waste Enterprise Funds**. This is an accounting method that allows a municipality to manage program costs and revenues separately from the General Fund.

Speakers included **Mary Jane Handy** (Director of Local Accounts from the Dept. of Revenue), **Debbie Revelle** (Plainville Board of Health), **Richard Elrick** (Barnstable Energy and Recycling Coordinator), and **Michele Bernier** (North Attleborough Solid Waste Dept.).

They described how solid waste enterprise funds are established, and shared experiences from municipalities who employ this accounting method. Click [here](#) for meeting minutes. Click [here](#) for Mary Jane Handy's presentation. Click [here](#) for Richard Elrick's presentation.

Recycling bills take last gasp in House Ways and Means

The formal legislative session which began in January 2015 ended Sunday night with hundreds of bills, many passed by the Senate, bottled up in House Ways and Means without a vote.

Included among them were eight that the SSRC had testified and communicated with legislators on, both in support and opposition. These included:

- Repeal and Replace Bottle Bill with temporary 1c container tax ([H646](#)) [Testimony opposed to H646](#); [Letter opposing H646](#),
- Reinstate the Clean Environment Fund ([H705](#)) [Letter supporting H705](#),
- Conditional expansion of bottle deposits ([H2875/S1752](#)); [Testimony in support of H2875/S1752, S177](#)
- E-Waste Producer Responsibility bills([H756/S404](#)); [Testimony in support of H756/S404](#)
- Paint Product Stewardship bill ([S2109](#)); [Testimony in support of S408](#) (now S2109); [Letter of support for S2109](#)
- Universal Recycling bill ([H3420](#)) [Testimony in support of H3420](#).

It is possible to pass bills during informal session over the next few months, if there is unanimous support in both branches.

“Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others. “ (attributed to W. Churchill)

Tips from the SWANA listserv: Outreach budgeting

Q. Does anyone have a rule-of-thumb they use for education and outreach budgeting in terms of dollars per resident or dollars per household per year?

- Elizabeth Roe, President, Eco Partners, Inc., Director, CEM Technical Division, SWANA

A. At the Southeast Regional Service Commission in New Brunswick, we have been using \$2 per household for education. Residents pay for their waste collection, recycling and composting through their property taxes, of which this \$2 per household is added.

- Erin Klinghammer, SRCC, Environmental Operations Manager, Moncton NB

A. \$1 per HH is an industry standard. The figure has been used for many years, but ... the \$ per HH still depends on the locality and its market. Higher media prices or salary levels will require more. In recent years we benchmarked an authority in a southern state that spends just under 75 cents per HH per year and funds 1.5 FTEs and their well-received program.

- Kate Vasquez, Senior Consultant, Gershman, Brickner & Bratton, Inc. Fairfax VA

A. In Ontario we consider it best practice to spend about \$1 per hhd/yr. In Toronto, we spend about \$3/hhd.

- Annette Synowiec, City of Toronto Manager, Waste Planning, Policy, Planning & Support

A. In Norfolk we spend \$2 per home per year.

- Harvey E. Howard, Waste Management Superintendent, Norfolk, Virginia

Closed Loop Fund offers Food Waste Recovery grants

The Closed Loop Foundation is launching a **Food Waste Innovation & Solution Search** that will provide seed capital through grants and Program-Related Investment (PRI) loans to support companies and projects that have the potential to unlock food waste diversion and reduction at scale.

The Solutions Search is open to submissions of all types of solutions to the food waste challenge, from field to disposal.

Proposals are due **August 12th**, and awardees will be announced in November 2016. The grants and loans will be between \$25K - \$50K. [Learn more](#) (scroll down). [Application form](#).



U.S. Conference of Mayors Passes Food Waste Resolution



On June 27th, at the 84th Annual Conference of Mayors, [a food waste reduction resolution was passed](#) promoting the EPA food waste reduction hierarchy, multistakeholder partnership, innovation and financing to meet a 50% reduction goal by 2030. Greg Stanton, Mayor of the City of Phoenix, and Chair of the U.S. Conference of Mayors Environment Committee, sponsored the resolution with feedback and support from [ReFED](#) and the [Closed Loop Fund](#).

In Support of Municipal Partnership to Reduce Food Waste by 50% by 2030 through the Adoption of Priority Actions to Reduce Food Waste (excerpts)

... **WHEREAS**, food loss and waste is the single largest component of disposed U.S. municipal solid waste, costing municipalities collectively more than \$1 billion each year and accounts for a significant portion of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions through both landfill methane emissions and upstream agricultural activities; and

WHEREAS, recent research demonstrates that with current technology and policy, prevention and recovery are the most cost-effective strategies for reducing food waste, and that recycling is the most scalable; and

WHEREAS, nearly half of U.S. states mandate the separate collection of yard and lawn debris in residences, creating an organics collection and transportation infrastructure that can be cost-effectively scaled and expanded into food waste collection and transportation; ...

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports a multi-stakeholder partnership approach to achieve the goal of a 50% reduction in food loss and waste by 2030, as set by the USDA and EPA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon federal and state governments to increase access to grants, loans, guarantees, tax incentives or other sources of financing that can facilitate the financing of organics and food waste recycling infrastructure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages cities to consider additional societal benefits in assessing the funding or permitting of organics recycling or food recovery infrastructure, including job creation, water conservation, hunger alleviation, greenhouse gas reduction and soil health enhancement.