

**Wellfleet Board of Selectmen
Minutes of the Meeting of March 10, 2014
Council On Aging Building, 7:00 p.m.**

Present: Paul Pilcher, John Morrissey, Jerry Houk, Dennis Murphy; Town Administrator Harry Sarkis Terkanian.

Regrets: Berta Bruinooge

Vice Chair Paul Pilcher called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Business

Approval of tax bill insert for Solarize Wellfleet

Motion 14-0214: Morrissey moved to approve placing an insert into the tax bill regarding the Solarize Wellfleet program. Murphy seconded the motion and it passed 3-0-1 (Houk recused himself from the vote).

Public Comment on the Wellfleet Pay As You Throw experience for the first three months of operation

Acting Chair Paul Pilcher said the Selectmen will listen to audience members who have signed up to speak for three minute intervals regarding Pay As You Throw. The comments will be compiled and shared at the March 25, 2014 Board of Selectmen meeting.

Moe Barocas: Barocas suggested developing a special PAYT bag to be available at a reduced cost or free of charge at the Transfer Station to young families or senior citizens to help alleviate the financial burden of waste disposal. Barocas also suggested raising the fee by \$0.10 to \$0.20 per bag to cover the cost differential.

Mary Ellen Manning: Manning does not think PAYT is appropriate for the Town of Wellfleet. The BOS/BOH did not wait to learn the new contract rate of waste disposal before implementation. She would rather pay a flat fee for disposal instead of per bag and thinks the current system puts an unfair burden on working families. Manning is a recycler but finds the process “onerous” and called PAYT a “punitive measure.” Manning thinks the BOS did not realize that citizens do not want PAYT, that they made a mistake in implementing the program and are not working to change it.

Ron Martin: Martin thinks that PAYT was “shoved down our throats” and agreed with Manning on a flat fee for waste disposal at the Transfer Station. He suggested a \$75 annual permit fee. Martin is also concerned about the environmental impacts of increased burning and burying of trash. He thinks the purple bags are not sturdy and will continue to use black contractor bags.

Steve Oliver: Oliver thinks that the decision to implement PAYT should rest with the citizens of Wellfleet and the issue should have gone to Town Meeting for a vote. “Voicing one’s opinions at board meetings will never be an acceptable substitute for exercising one’s right to vote.” He thinks composting is key and encourages the Town to set up a community composting site at the Transfer Station.

Sandy Wonders: Wonders has had a good experience so far with PAYT and has found that purchasing the bigger bags is the most economical option. She purchased a composter from the DPW and said it is “critter proof.”

Yvonne Barocas: Barocas was skeptical at first of PAYT but attended many of the planning meetings and had questions about the program answered. She said it was an adjustment but the program is now working well for her family. Barocas commended the BOS & BOH for coming up with a good solution. Although the program is not perfect for everyone, she thinks the Boards will work out the kinks.

Barbara Gray: Passed on her turn but said this meeting was “democracy in action.”

Dina Harris Walker: Walker supports PAYT. She did not know how she would implement the program but Walker learned how to recycle and now is proud that she is doing her part to better the planet.

Peter Hall: Hall has not yet filled up two PAYT bags since the start of the program on Dec 1. He has set up containers to sort the recycling material at his home. Hall loves the program results.

Roger Putnam: Putnam does not support PAYT. He said that Wellfleet residents have been recycling for years and does not believe in “paying for what you use.” Putnam thinks PAYT puts an unfair burden on young families and should have been put before the people for a vote at Town Meeting. PAYT affects every household in the community and a judgment was made to implement the program without consulting every member of the community.

Toni Gisone: Gisone does not think Wellfleet can be compared to other Cape PAYT towns like Sandwich and Brewster because of seasonal population spike here. Wellfleet is more comparable with Provincetown and Chatham, both of which rejected PAYT. She also thinks PAYT puts an unfair financial burden on young families. Asking families to apply for assistance to get free PAYT bags is another “demeaning step.”

Dale Rice: Rice and her husband passed around the BOS recall and said it was “just business.” She thinks that the DPW workers are being disrespected as the Transfer Station is not set up to handle the program. Rice spoke to many young families and seniors on fixed incomes when passing around the petition and knows that they are upset about the program as it is an added financial burden and takes away from precious time with their families. Rice asked Terkanian about the loss of fees from Commercial haulers. Terkanian said that the cost to get the trash to SEMASS and tip it is about \$45 a ton and the lost revenue is partially offset by the reduced costs.

Jeremy Young: Young spoke as a private trash hauler and business owner. He said there was an increased cost to haulers as they now have to take their loads to Yarmouth. Illegal trash is now taken to other towns. He also thinks the cost to the taxpayer is increased because of the cost of bags and added staff at the Transfer station. Young said, “Where will Wellfleet be in 25 years?” if the cost burden continues to shift to younger families.

Richard Elkin: Elkin is an aggressive recycler and PAYT has further reduced the amount of disposed trash. He would like to see a commercial composter at the Transfer Station.

Tom Rinehart: Rinehart’s family has increased their recycling by 65%. He thinks we need to do everything we can to preserve future generations.

Lydia Vivante: Vivante reviewed the list of recycling areas at the Transfer Station. The Recycling Committee is actively preparing for the summer months and will distribute a tenant guide. They are also preparing for a Composting Week May 17-24 and invited everyone to participate.

Terry Gips: Gips is a long-time recycler and read a list of facts about the history of trash disposal and recycling. She thanked people who said this is part of the big picture of recycling. Gips is concerned about the cost but she does believe our costs will go down over time.

Ned Hitchcock: Hitchcock asserts that the lower cost of the Transfer Station sticker offsets the higher cost of the bags. In the long term, he believes that PAYT will cost citizens less money to dispose of their waste. Hitchcock is a member of the crew that picks up trash along Rt. 6 and other Town roads and he has not seen an increase in illegal dumping. He likes the idea of gathering at the Transfer Station as a community to talk while sorting recycling and also likes the idea of having a compost area there. He acknowledged the difficulty in raising the public’s interest in critical issues until plans and policies are implemented.

Don Thimas: Thimas is an active recycler and composter and has noticed a dramatic increase in the amount of recycled material in his household since the inception of PAYT. He tends to compress what garbage he does have into the purple bags and suggested that the Town look into using stronger material for the bags. Thimas thinks it will take time to change people's habits about how they dispose of their trash and that people will adjust to PAYT in time.

Mary Frawley: Frawley spoke as a retailer and thinks it is unfair that stores that carry PAYT bags have to pay up to \$600 upfront to stock the purple bags, especially in the winter when every retailer is struggling to stay alive. She suggested that the Town should sell the bags at the Transfer Station.

Jennifer Flanagan: Although she recycles, Flanagan thinks PAYT puts an unfair financial burden on young families and feels she is being punished for having children in Wellfleet. She knows that someday, her children will not be able to live here because the cost of living will be too high. Flanagan fears that eventually there will be no school, no playgrounds and no children in Wellfleet. She says there are many people who feel the same as she does who could not make it to the meeting because they could not afford to pay a babysitter to watch their children so they could attend.

Savannah Brehmer: Brehmer was born and raised in Wellfleet and represents some of the young people who live in Town. She is very satisfied with the PAYT program and says it helps residents take responsibility for the things consume and how we dispose of the waste that our consumption produces. Brehmer knows it was not the intent of the PAYT planners to hurt young families or try to "shove PAYT down their "throats." She is happy to hear from some who have spoken that the program is working but things we should consider some alternatives like single stream recycling and rearranging the recycling area.

Sylvia Smith: Smith thinks that recycling is a "feel good measure" because there is no market for paper, tin, etc. and that the recyclables go into a warehouse and are not actually recycled.

Bill Walker: Walker's summer home has been in Wellfleet for 67 years and is opposed to PAYT in Wellfleet. He also lives in Bridgewater where they have PAYT. In Bridgewater, a Transfer Station attendant punches a card for each load thrown out and no colored bags are needed. Walker thinks that the Transfer Station recycling stations are inefficient and suggested several areas of improvement.

Brent Harold: Harold is not aware of any illegal dumping or burning of trash but would have been more comfortable if PAYT would have gone before Town Meeting. He recounted his busy 27 year old son and his family's experience with PAYT. Harold's son estimated a cost of \$65 a year as he is not a super recycler, leading Harold to believe that the \$300 figure proposed by some opponents to PAYT is erroneous. His son is having a hard time staying on Cape Cod but Harold does not believe it will be the purple bags that drive him from living here.

Janet Rinehart: Rinehart noted that Eastham's dump sticker price was going up to \$125. She suggested that the Recycling Committee create an exhaustive list of recyclable materials and how they should be prepared for recycling.

Martha Carol: Carol does not think there is anything "punitive" about the PAYT program and that the intention of the Selectmen was to help the Town. If we let things go on as they are, people will continue to be wasteful. If people are really in need of financial assistance, Carol believes they can turn to the Selectmen for help.

Leif Valli: Valli is raising six children in Wellfleet and is upset that people like him are looked down on as non-recyclers, which is far from the truth. He believes that figures showing a reduction in trash disposal have less to do with PAYT and more to do with the increased awareness of recycling. Now that the commercial

haulers must travel to other towns to dispose of waste, it is contributing to increased pollution. Valli thinks that PAYT is unfair and should be reconsidered. It should have gone to Town Meeting.

Helen Miranda Wilson: Although at first skeptical of PAYT, Wilson has noted an increase in recycling at her home. The program saves her time as Wilson is not going to the dump as often and she is saving money on the bags as the amount of disposed waste has been reduced.

Dick Morell: Morrell is impressed that the PAYT program has increased recycling in Wellfleet by 65%.

Fred McGee: McGee thinks that all residents recycle as best they can and that the Selectmen made the decision to implement PAYT with good intentions. He still does not have a clear sense what the true costs are to individuals and urged people in the audience to do a cost assessment versus paying a flat fee in case the issue does come before Town Meeting in the future.

Toni Gisone: Gisone spoke about the good aspects of PAYT, including an increased awareness of recycling. She thinks that better education about the importance of recycling would alleviate the need for PAYT. Gisone enjoyed being part of Roger Putnam's group and is glad she made new friends. The Wellfleet Facebook page has grown to 600 active participants and is a way for people to get involved and express their opinions in a constructive way. She urged the Town officers to use the Facebook page as well and praised Rich Pauley for comments which clarified a situation. Through this process, Gisone has learned a lot about Town government and how it works, and is excited to be more involved.

Motion 14-0215: Houk moved to adjourn the meeting. Murphy seconded the motion and it passed 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Voll, Executive Assistant