The Town of Barnstable
Department of Public Works
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Director

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June 6, 2020

Subject: Changes to recycling at the Transfer Station effective July 1, 2020

Dear Resident:

At their meeting on May 26, 2020, the Barnstable Board of Health voted to modify the Solid Waste regulations to eliminate the provision of free recycling for Barnstable residents. While this was a difficult decision, there was little choice due to circumstances beyond our control.

The regulation was enacted years ago when there was a robust market for recyclable materials which enabled the Transfer Station to utilize recyclables as a source of revenue. Unfortunately, during the past four years, due to upheaval in the world-wide market for recyclables, the demand for these materials has effectively dried-up, except for a few specific items. In fact, we must now pay to dispose of the majority of the recyclable material we receive at costs that in some cases exceed the cost of trash disposal.

The Transfer Station operates as an Enterprise Account which means that it must generate enough revenue to completely cover all the costs of operating the facility. As a result of the recycling situation, the Enterprise Account has been operating at a deficit, utilizing cash reserves to subsidize the cost of the recycling operation. This is not a sustainable economic model and has forced the Town to cease the practice of offering free recycling to residents that do not purchase a Transfer Station sticker.

Residents do have a number of options for disposing of their recyclable material. They can purchase an annual Transfer Station sticker that runs from July 1 - June 30 for $250.00. There are also two pay-per-visit options for the disposal of trash and/or recyclable material: one is a $10.00 per visit fee for disposal of two 30-gallon bags of household trash and recyclables and the other is a $20.00 per visit fee for disposal of up to five 30-gallon bags of household trash and recyclables. Any bag over the five 30-gallon bag limit is $4.00 per bag.

Residents also have the option of utilizing a number of local private trash hauling services to have recyclables collected at their home.

We apologize for any inconvenience or hardship that these changes may present.

Daniel W. Santos, P.E.