

SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Plainfield Select Board created a Solid Waste Group in May 2019 to review Plainfield's solid waste program and recommend any changes for potential vote at the 2020 Town Meeting. Given a variety of factors--including significant resident support for the existing curbside pickup of garbage and recyclables, uncertainty in the recycling markets and resulting rising costs, and proposals to address rising costs (including using totter two-wheel carts for recycling pickup) by Plainfield's current vendor, Casella Waste Systems--the SWG determined that further study and additional resident input was needed before significant changes were made. In January 2020, the SWG made the following recommendations to the Select Board:

- 1) Extend contract for existing curbside pickup and disposal system for garbage and recyclables for one year.
- 2) Identify potential vendors and alternative contract arrangements, and if feasible, create a Request For Proposal to go out to bid by July 2020.
- 3) Continue Solid Waste Group to research options and focus on resident education.

SOLID WASTE SURVEY RESULTS

Plainfield residents overwhelmingly support Plainfield's current curbside pickup and disposal system for garbage and recyclables. An impressive 61%, or 489 of 800 Plainfield households, responded to a SWG survey in the fall of 2019. Thank you Plainfield residents for your participation!

Some 86% support curbside pickup of garbage.

Some 94% support curbside pickup of recyclables.

Disposal Methods: The SWG survey also asked how Plainfield residents handle their garbage and recyclables. While the majority use the curbside program exclusively, many supplement the program with drop off at the Lebanon Landfill and Recycling Center. Interestingly, some residents who do not use the curbside program still indicated support for the program.

| | Use Curbside Exclusively | Curbside & Lebanon | Lebanon only |
|-----------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Garbage | 370 | 43 | 56 |
| Recycling | 412 | 34 | 20 |

Further information on Plainfield's solid waste program is available on the town website. Respectfully submitted,

Marc Morgan, Richard Atkinson, Hillary Sundell, Wayne Tucker and Susan Williams