

MORC Public Works Subcommittee Report. **DRAFT**

Our subcommittee met on two occasions with Bob Malley, Director of Public Works. We reviewed the Public Works budget and operations. As a result of our work we have four recommendations for the full Committee.

Pay Per Bag - We recommend that the MORC endorse the Council's efforts to move the Town to a pay per bag solid waste system. The fees to RWS are the biggest line item in the town budget after spending on education. While Cape's recycling rates have improved with the implementation of single stream recycling, we can do more. An examination of recycling rates for towns that have pay per bag and/or curbside recycling show how much better we can do. Since the Town Council is already exploring pay per bag, we did not see the need to duplicate the Town Council's efforts, except to clearly endorse them as a sound approach to saving the taxpayers' money.

Second the schools have not done all that they could to increase recycling. We believe that the schools need to have a financial incentive to do more recycling. We suggest that the Council, in its budget adopt a dollar amount for RWS and move that money directly to the school budget. If there were savings, which there could and should be if the schools increase their recycling rates, savings would accrue to the schools. If there are overages, than such expenses should also come out of the school budget.

Third, PWD provides mowing and landscaping for some developments in town, most notably, Cross Hill. Other developments, such as Stonegate have homeowners associations that maintain the areas. We recommend that as a *requirement* of future permitting the Town require that a homeowners' association be required to maintain such areas, rather than the town.

Finally, we do not believe there is sufficient knowledge by the public of the breadth of work performed by Public Works. We recommend that an activity report be published annually on the town web page.