



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Town of Hanson votes to join South Shore Recycling Cooperative

At Hanson's May 7 Town Meeting, voters unanimously approved an article that enables the town to become a member of the South Shore Recycling Cooperative. Sponsored by the Board of Health, the Warrant Article proposed that the Town adopt the Special Legislation that created the SSRC, and authorize Board of Selectmen Chairman Jesse McSweeney to sign the Cooperative's Intermunicipal Agreement.

Once the IMA is signed and two representatives are appointed to the Board, Hanson will begin to enjoy the benefits of working with fifteen other towns on issues relating to trash, recycling and hazardous product disposal. The Cooperative currently consists of the towns of Abington, Cohasset, Duxbury, Hanover, Hingham, Holbrook, Hull, Kingston, Marshfield, Norwell, Plymouth, Rockland, Scituate, Weymouth and Whitman, with a collective population of about 350,000.

The SSRC was established in 1998 after several towns, which had considered forming a solid waste district since 1990, decided not to go that route. In the process though, the towns saw the benefits of working together on solid waste issues while maintaining program autonomy. The Cooperative's mission is to help member towns improve their recycling programs and reduce the amount, toxicity and cost of disposal.

Kathy Keefe and Deborah Brownell, who are on the Hanson Recycling Committee, began investigating the benefits of SSRC membership in 2004. SSRC Chairman Merle Brown and Executive Director Claire Sullivan made a presentation to the Board of Health at that time, and were invited back this past February to explain how membership could benefit the Town of Hanson. Board of Health Chairman Terrence McSweeney, Co-Chairman Joseph Pelligra and Member Richard Edgehille determined that using the Cooperative's regional Household Hazardous Product Collection contract alone would offset the \$4,000/year cost of membership, while also giving residents the flexibility to attend another twelve regional collections each year.

Other benefits to membership include networking at monthly meetings with the other members' solid waste managers, access to regional contracts, and the services of the Executive Director, who acts as a regional solid waste consultant to the member towns. She helps them maximize their use of grants and market information, provides public outreach, and keeps up to date with a rapidly changing trends and regulations. The Cooperative also has a voice on Beacon Hill and at DEP, and is consulted regularly by legislators and regulators on solid waste issues. That voice will be a little louder now with the addition of Hanson to the fold.

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