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TOWN of BROOKLINE

Solid Waste Advisory Committee

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March 10, 2023

The Select Board
Town of Brookline
333 Washington Street
Brookline, MA 02445

Dear Members of the Select Board:

The Solid Waste Advisory Committee's mission is to advise the Select Board about solid waste issues.

At its March 7, 2023, meeting SWAC discussed the possibility of a budget override to support municipal curbside composting. SWAC voted to advise the Select Board, in the strongest terms, to include composting in an override.

1. The Zero Waste Framework developed in 2021 by the DPW and SWAC identified composting of food waste as a critical mechanism to reduce solid waste. (It is estimated that 25% or more of Brookline's solid waste is food.) Diverting that waste from incineration or landfilling will also reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
2. Town meeting voted unanimously in Fall of 2021 in favor of Warrant Article 17 to accelerate the adoption of universal composting in Brookline, and it instructed SWAC to develop a plan for starting it.
3. The resultant plan laid out steps and options for a phased implementation of curbside composting for Brookline residents currently on Town solid waste/recycling collection.
4. Neighboring municipalities including Boston, Cambridge, and Watertown are implementing curbside composting programs.

Therefore, the time is right for Brookline to move forward as soon as possible to implement a curbside composting program. An initial investment now in the form of an override will be consistent with town climate goals, will be good for the planet, and may lead to future savings in solid waste disposal expenses.

Respectfully,

John P. Dempsey
For the Solid Waste Advisory Committee

cc: Mr. Charles Carey, Town Administrator
Ms. Devon Fields, Assistant Town Administrator for Operations
Ms. Erin Gallentine, Commissioner of Public Works

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