



Town of Dracut

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James A Duggan
Town Manager

Memorandum

To: Chairman Tony Archinski and Members of the Dracut Board of Selectmen

From: James A. Duggan, Town Manager 

Date: February 22, 2016

Re: Additional Carts for Automated Recycling Policy Change

Since the implementation of the automated recycling program in October, 2014, we have provided more than 375 additional recycling carts to interested residents. To date, the town has provided these town-owned carts at no charge to the resident to encourage recycling efforts, despite there being significant costs we must pay the collection vendor for this service.

Along with the cost to purchasing each additional cart, the town pays an extra charge for the collection and disposal of recyclables. The cost of each cart is \$57 and the annual collection and disposal service charge is \$95 per cart. In the first nine months of the program alone, the town paid the vendor more than \$13,000 for providing and servicing 189 additional recycling carts.

Other communities with automated recycling collection programs either don't offer an additional cart to residents or charge a fee to help offset the costs accrued by the town. We will continue to encourage maximum recycling, however we are no longer in a financial position to absorb the cost of the additional carts and therefore asking the residents to offset some of the extra cost involved through a one-time charge for the use of the additional cart. A \$57 charge to the resident will cover the cost of the town owned cart with the Town continuing to pay the more costly ongoing charge for servicing the additional cart.

Please let me know if you would like any additional information.

Thank you