

Town of Cape Elizabeth
Recycling Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2019

Present: Chair, Matthew Faulkner (MF), Kara Lavender Law (KL), Jennifer MacDonald (JM), Aubrey Miller (AM) and Nicole Boucher (NB)

Absent: Chelsea Torrey (CT) and Tim Trachimowicz (TT)

Staff: Robert Malley (RM), Director of Public Works

Public/Guests: Valerie Deveraux, Town Councilor; Bruce Rayner, resident of 309 Fowler Road

Call to Order: Matt Faulkner, (MF) Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and welcomed Councilor Deveraux when she arrived shortly after the meeting was called to order.

Approval of January 3, 2019 Draft Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved (5 Yes, 0 No). RM thanked KL for her assistance with the monthly review of the draft minutes.

Citizen Opportunity for Public Comment Not On the Agenda

Proposal for Cape Elizabeth to Designate two weeks a Year as “Plogging Weeks” – Bruce Rayner (resident)

Mr. Rayner was in attendance to answer any questions about his proposal. KL asked if he would consider doing a “pilot” event for one day. He stated he preferred proposing the two weeks as noted in his written request. RM stated that if the proposal was endorsed by the Committee it would then be forwarded to the Town Manager for inclusion on the March Town Council meeting agenda for their consideration.

There was a general discussion about the promotion of the event. Councilor Deveraux suggested involving high school students in the event.

After some additional discussion, the Committee moved and seconded a motion to endorse the event and forward it to the Town Council for their consideration. The motion was approved 5 Yes 0 No.

RM will forward the request to the Town Manager.

Continued Discussion of Goals & Objectives of the Recycling Committee for 2019

MF reviewed the goals and objectives discussed at the January meeting. These included an endorsement of the “Plogging” events, working with the schools to replace plastic straws with paper straws, continue to promote reduce/reuse/recycle awareness, continued outreach to the schools, development of a welcome packet for new residents to learn about the Recycling Center, attendance at the Strawberry Festival and working with Community Services on a recycling workshop. KL suggested this workshop could take the form of a panel discussion to address the current state of the recycling industry from the national to the local level.

There was a general discussion about plastic straws and initiatives in the area to ban the use of them.

RM suggested that MF assemble the goal topics into 4 or 5 categories and present them to the Committee at the March meeting for consideration and approval; which he agreed to do.

Update on Contamination Data for Recycling Containers – Tim Trachimowicz

The Committee was asked last month to make a recommendation on whether the recycling containers behind the Town Hall should be removed given the level of contamination in them being tracked by **ecomaine** each month. TT was unable to attend the meeting. He had volunteered to develop an analysis of the hauling costs and potential contamination penalties the Town could be facing after July 1, 2019, when fees start being assessed by

ecomaine. There was a general discussion about the pros and cons of removing the containers along with the implications it would have on the “single stream” compactors at the Recycling Center. RM stated there may be financial implications and an impact on the current hauling schedule. Currently, the solid waste and “single stream” containers are hauled when the facility is closed.

KL stated that even if the Town Hall containers are removed there will continue to be contamination issues in the “single stream” compactors up at the Recycling Center.

NB thought that the impact of the additional hauls needed up at the Recycling Center might be cost neutral. She recommended that the OCC (cardboard) container should be kept at the Town Hall. She also said if the “silver bullet” containers were removed it might be easier to control contamination at one central location.

MF asked if the Town could place a notice in the tax bills explaining that the removal of them is under consideration. RM will follow up with Town Manager Matt Sturgis.

There was a general discussion about the merits of keeping and removing the containers.

To close the discussion, there was a consensus to keep the OCC (cardboard) container but that more information was needed before any recommendation could be made on the “silver bullets”.

RM stated he plans to carry a contamination fee allowance in the FY 2020 budget, which is due to the Town Manager on Friday, February 15th. KL suggested that TT’s estimates be used in the absence of any hard data.

Webpage and Communication Update – Nicole Boucher

NB reported that activity on the Facebook page is going well. There have been 128 “Likes” to date. She currently has a contest going on now called “Win the Bin”, where a participant is selected to win a plastic recycling bin.

RM reported he has picked up 20 recycling bins from **ecomaine** and stated that they could be used for promotional activities or sold to residents. A fee of \$5.00 was suggested. RM to check with Debra Lane (Town Clerk) to see if sales tax is applicable on the bins.

Councilor Deveraux stated that the high school has a TV station called “Cape TV” and that maybe students could produce a short vignette to promote recycling.

Update of Communication, Collaboration & Outreach with CE Schools

KL has delivered some small scales to the PC/MS cafeteria for weighing recyclables. She reported that the school is now focusing on recycling drink containers only. She felt the Committee has done what they can do and that further recycling encouragement in the PC school needed to come from the principal (Jason Manjourides) and the head custodian (Brett Kennedy). She also reported that she saw some signage in the PC school in the hallway about plastic straws.

There was a general discussion regarding the on-going issues associated with handling recyclables in the schools and how they are handled both inside and outside the buildings.

Committee Member Updates & Correspondence

MF reported he received an inquiry from the Town of Bethel, ME, asking for information on our plastic bag ordinance.

KL asked about the status of correcting the text in the Single Use Bag ordinance (Chapter 11, Article IV). RM will follow up with Town Manager Matt Sturgis.

MF reported on an email received from AM that the annual Strawberry Festival is scheduled for Saturday, June 29th. The event organizer is looking for help with food waste composting at this year’s event. RM suggested that extra food waste bins from the Recycling Center could be brought down to the event and picked up by Public Works staff on Monday, July 1st.

KL suggested that the event organizer (Imogene Altnauer) be invited to the March meeting to discuss recycling and composting at the event. AM will reach out to extend the invitation.

MF urged the members present to check out **ecomaine**’s “**RECYCLAPEDIA**”. He stated it was well organized and useful.

Other Business

RM reported that a new staff member has been hired at the Recycling Center. Scott Forrest joined the team on January 23, 2019. RM reported that he attended an educational workshop at **ecomaine** on February 7th.

Citizen Opportunity for Discussion of Items On the Agenda

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47PM.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 7, 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert C. Malley, Director of Public Works

DRAFT

**Town of Cape Elizabeth
Recycling Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 3, 2019**

Present: Chair, Kara Lavender Law (KL), Matthew Faulkner (MF), Tim Trachimowicz (TT), Jennifer MacDonald (JM), Chelsea Torrey (CT), Aubrey Miller (AM) and Nicole Boucher (NB)

Absent:

Staff: Robert Malley (RM), Director of Public Works

Public/Guests: Bruce Rayner, resident of 309 Fowler Road & Zoe Evans (CEHS 10th-Grade Student)

Call to Order: Kara Lavender Law (KL) Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Approval of December 6, 2018 Draft Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved (6 Yes, 0 No)

Election of Chair for 2019

KL made a motion to nominate Matthew Faulkner to be Chair for 2019. Motion seconded by JM. Approved (6 Yes, 0 No).

Citizen Opportunity for Public Comment Not On the Agenda

Mr. Rayner (a resident and owner of a company called **Athletes for a Fit Planet, LLC**) introduced himself to the Committee. Bruce was invited to the meeting by KL after contacting her via email in December. He suggested holding a “Plogging” week (or two) in the community, which is the name of an event that combines picking up trash while exercising. Participants can be joggers, runners, cyclists and walkers, including students and groups.

Mr. Rayner did a recent “Plogging” exercise on Bowery Beach Road between Fowler Road and the entrance to the Crescent Beach State Park and collected 32 lbs. of trash and recyclables, He works with several road race organizations, including the Beach to Beacon on greening and sustainability efforts.

He would like to propose two “Plogging” weeks for the committee/community to consider participating in. The first would be April 22nd to April 28th, and the second October 14th to October 20th. He would like to quantify the amount of material collected and develop a profile of the items picked up.

NB suggested that it could be developed into a contest.

KL liked the idea of tracking the types of material collected.

RM suggested the road network leading to the Recycling Center would be good roads to start with.

MF suggested the collected material should be weighed before it is sorted.

RM stated that any official designation for the weeks would have to be considered by the Town Council, but that a one-day collection could be a Committee-sponsored outreach event. KL suggested it could be promoted for that week with a publicized event on a Saturday, in which volunteers (including committee members) could weigh and log items that citizens bring to the Recycling Center.

MF asked if South Portland could be included in the event as many neighboring residents run/jog in Cape Elizabeth.

RM suggested that Mr. Rayner submit a formal proposal to him that that the Committee could consider at their February meeting.

Meeting Schedule for 2019

The following meeting dates were agreed via consensus for 2019:

February 7th

March 7th

April 11th

May 11th – HHW/E-Waste Collection Day

June 6th

No Meeting in July

August 1st

Sept. 5th

Oct. 3rd

Nov. 7th

Dec. 5th

Update on Recycling Center and Town Food Waste Collection – Bob Malley

RM reported it was busy at the Recycling Center leading up the Holidays. The Center was closed the entire day on Christmas Eve, which was approved by the Town Council.

RM reported there was a fair amount of food-waste brought in during the Holiday season at the Recycling Center. Extra containers were brought in by We Compost It! to handle the increased demand of in-coming food-waste, which included many pumpkins. Based on some weights provided by We Compost It!, we are taking in approximately 3 tons/month.

KL asked RM if the blue recycling bins to be sold to Cape residents have been picked up at **ecomaine**. RM said he can pick them up next week.

Update on Contamination Data for Recycling Containers – Tim Trachimowicz

TT has been tracking the reports from **ecomaine** each month. He reported that contamination is higher on the “silver bullets” behind Town Hall than those at the Recycling Center. Based on **ecomaine**’s fee schedule of penalties for contamination, the town would be potentially facing \$1,500/month on average if fees were assessed. It is unclear when/if **ecomaine** will begin charging contamination fees.

RM asked the Committee their opinion about the recycling containers behind Town Hall and whether they should be removed given the increased level of contamination that is being documented. There was a general discussion about the percentage of contamination and the potential financial penalties. It was felt more data was needed to make an informed decision. This led to a discussion how the removal would affect the number and timing of “pulls” at the Recycling Center. TT asked RM to obtain the data from October and November. He will then analyze the data and report back to the Committee next month. RM will need to make a recommendation to the Town Manager by February 15th.

Zoe Evans (CEHS Student) arrived at the meeting at 8:05 PM. She has an interest on “Plogging” and reported on her efforts in the Two Lights Road area and with the high school cross-country team. She is an avid runner and is trying to raise awareness through state-wide school cross-country programs.

Committee Member Updates & Correspondence

There were no member updates or correspondence reported.

Webpage and Communication Update – Nicole Boucher

NB reported that the Recycling Committee Facebook page has 200 “Likes” so far. She suggested creating a contest on the page that people could participate in and get a blue **ecomaine** recycling bin as a prize, which the Committee supported.

There was a general discussion about the merits of creating an “Instagram” page to help with messaging and outreach. NB stated that she was unsure how to manage that social media service.

Update of Communication, Collaboration & Outreach with CE Schools

KL reported on a meeting with MF, JM, Head Custodian Brett Kennedy and Pond Cove Principal Jason Manjourides regarding the flow of depositing recyclable material at the PC/MS cafeteria. Brett would like to start weighing recyclables in the cafeteria. KL offered to get him some hanging scales.

MF asked RM how the schools could transition to totes for the janitors to place recyclables in outside. RM stated the current hauler does not have an automated truck to pick up totes and that a proposal would have to be obtained from another hauler. He stated that it would probably be very expensive from a transportation standpoint, but he will obtain a proposal to get a better understanding of the potential cost. This led to a general discussion about how the recyclables are currently being handled in the schools and the logistics of getting things into the existing containers.

Discussion of Goals & Objectives of the Recycling Committee for 2019

There was a general discussion about potential goals and objectives for the Committee that was started at the December 2018 meeting. Topics included continuing outreach efforts in the schools, working to eliminate plastic straws with a switch to paper straws in the PC/MS cafeteria and supporting efforts to discourage the wasting of food in the cafeteria. Another topic was the creating a packet of information for residents regarding the use of the Recycling Center. RM stated the current brochure needs to be updated and that the last one was created with the help of a resident. RM asked MF to develop a draft for the Committee to review at the February meeting. He encouraged the Committee to finalize them so they could be sent to the Town Council in March.

There was a general discussion about the issuance (and enforcement) of residential permits at the Recycling Center. RM feels there needs to be improvements to the current program of how permits are issued and dealing with non-resident use of the Recycling Center, especially at the Swap Shop. He stated that he has spoken to the newly appointed Chief of Police about assisting with some unannounced residency checks at the entrance to the Recycling Center on two or three days of the year.

Other Business

RM reported that the Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) received a query regarding Sec. 11-4-2 of the Health & Sanitation Ordinance related to single use carryout bags. The questions were related to the applicability of the ordinance to businesses and the metric reference used to describe the thickness of a Reusable bag as defined in Sec. 11-4-2 (c) iii. After review of the ordinance by the CEO, there appears to be an inconsistency between the text in Section 11-4-2 (d)(ii) and the minutes of the Town Council meeting of November 6, 2017 when the ordinance was approved as amended.

There was an extended discussion of those present at the November 6th meeting (RM, KL, AM and MF) regarding their recollection of the amendments noted in the Town Council meeting minutes and the ultimate vote taken on the Item.

AM offered to review the video telecast of the Town Council meeting, the written minutes, and the supporting documents related to the ordinance proposal. She will get back to RM with her findings.

Citizen Opportunity for Discussion of Items On the Agenda

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 7, 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert C. Malley, Director of Public Works

