

**Town of Cape Elizabeth  
Solid Waste & Recycling Long Range Planning Committee**

Meeting Minutes  
February 18, 2015

**Present:** Councilor Jessica Sullivan (JS) (Chair), Jamie Garvin (JG), Anne Swift-Kayatta (ASK), Charles Wilson (CW), & Bill Brownell (BB).

**Also Present:** Randy Tome (Woodard & Curran) & Megan McDevitt (Woodard & Curran)

**Staff:** Robert Malley (RM)

**Call to Order:** Jessica Sullivan called the meeting to order @ 2:05 PM.

**Citizen Opportunity for Public Comment**

No one from the public was present.

**Meeting Minutes**

The February 11, 2015 meeting minutes were approved after a minor amendment was suggested by CW. The amendment was related to his purpose in attending the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee meeting. The minutes were approved as amended (5 Yes/0 No).

**Report from Woodard & Curran**

Following a request at the last meeting, RT reviewed an aerial map of the Recycling Center and Gull Crest property with the members that delineated setbacks, wetland and floodplain boundaries on the contiguous parcels. JS asked what can be done given the setback requirements from both the former landfill and the wetlands. RT responded that there will be limitations working in or adjacent to any areas that were previously closed, based on the guidance document from the Maine DEP. Any proposal to disturb any non-closure area outside of any setbacks may be permissible. There was a general discussion of what could be done in these areas, such as building retaining walls or constructing access roads.

CW asked if the existing compactor building could be moved back away from the former solid waste limits. A general discussion followed how refuse could be conveyed to the compactor using a multiple lane “drive-through” or “drive along” traffic pattern. There was also a discussion about the possibility of using the existing compactor to accept “single stream” recyclables if a new compactor unit was constructed.

JG asked about building a new facility on the Gull Crest property in the area northeast of the athletic fields outside of any setbacks. There was a discussion about the impact on the current uses, parking and the potential relocation of the athletic fields. The consultants provided scale layouts of some comparable Transfer Stations and how they would fit on contiguous land; both on the Gull Crest property and on the Recycling Center property.

JG asked the consultants how any future solid waste reduction technology could be incorporated into the design of any new Transfer Station. RT stated that there is a device called an “anaerobic digester”, but that technology is not being utilized in our country to any extent.

CW suggested any service model should address the drop-off of recyclables and asked again what could be done on, or adjacent to the current facility.

There was a general discussion about the Gull Crest property and its suitability for any proposed facility. RM suggested that there may be limitations on the site given the vegetative buffers and site plan restrictions from

the Maine DEP permit related to the Public Works Facility. After some discussion, it was the consensus of the committee to not pursue any solid waste facility options on the Gull Crest parcel given the current uses.

Following some discussion, the consultants were asked to put together some conceptual sketches of modifications to the current facility and a new stand-alone facility located northeast of the stump & demolition landfill. These sketches should depict a multi-lane (2 or 3), drop-off facility for both refuse and recycling. In an effort to save expenses, CW suggested that modifications to the current compactor building site be looked at first before going to any new site on the property. The consultants will work on sketches and get them to the committee members via the Chair in two weeks. They will have rough cost estimates for the March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Updates from Committee Members**

RM reported that he had met with a representative from Casella Waste Systems on Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. The intent was to canvas the Town and get a better sense of the road layout and density of neighborhoods. This information will be used to put together a budget estimate for any potential curbside program the committee may want to consider as part of their deliberations. A short discussion followed on the challenges implementing a curbside program on private ways or in private subdivisions.

JG reported that he would be working with Tracy Floyd to put together a draft survey for the committee to review at their meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

CW reported that he had a productive meeting with 4 members of the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee. His questions focused on their interest and/or concerns related to any potential curbside program. The members present were generally supportive of a curbside program and didn't feel they would have issues maneuvering totes. They did express an interest in smaller totes, if available.

CW had also put together an outline of talking points to local organizations in an effort to perform outreach in the community. The Committee agreed that it would be helpful for them to reach out to people either one-on-one at the Recycling Center, at the Pond Cove Shopping Center or via attendance at a service club meeting.

BB reported that he had put together some thoughts about the operation of the Recycling Center and had shared them with the Chair and RM. He stated that the committee should explore more modest changes to the current site rather than pursue the design of a new Transfer Station.

### **Consultant Engagement & Expenditure Update**

ASK asked the consultants about the contract and how much conceptual estimating it could accommodate. RT stated that they had included some time for this task but that it could be used up quickly depending on the level of effort. He said that there could be savings in the contract, such as in the compilation and completion of the final report. He said if the members wanted to write the report there could be a considerable savings to the Town. ASK stated that the committee exercise should be done correctly even if means exceeding the budget. JS stated that the consultants should perform the tasks that are outside the limits of expertise of the committee members. CW stated that we need conceptual designs and cost estimates to fully understand our options moving forward.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert C. Malley  
Director of Public Works

