

Town of Cape Elizabeth Recycling Committee

Minutes of the October 26, 2006 Meeting

Members present: Sarah Choi, Alina Perez-Smith, Rachel Stamieszkin, and Louise Sullivan.

Members absent: Russ Pierce and Jeff Van Fleet.

Guests: Bob Malley, Director of Public Works.

Alina called the meeting to order at 7:20 P.M. in the conference room of the Public Works Building.

On motion duly made and seconded it was voted: To accept the minutes of the September 7, 2006 meeting.

The committee discussed the recent e-waste collection held at Public Works, run by Uniwaste of Portsmouth, NH. (The spring collection was done by Clean Harbors.) This was the first time Public Works has used Uniwaste. The collection started a little late, and there were less people working, but there was far more waste collected than in the spring (36 pallets). The committee discussed reasons why the amount of waste was so high—almost four times more than in the spring. E-waste is often bulkier than household hazardous waste, which often includes chemicals, paints, etc. Also, this summer the State changed their policy on disposal of universal waste, and so tv's and computers, for example, can no longer go in the hopper. The committee will write a Courier article on the collection after we get the numbers from Uniwaste and Bob. It was agreed that the handout and the article in the Courier were instrumental in getting the word out to the town about the collection time and place, and we should continue to write them in the future.

The committee set up a table at the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust (CELT) festival this fall. Very few people came to the table to look at the recycling information that we had displayed there. On the other hand, the recycling rates sign attracted attention, and not only those who came to the table remarked on it, but there were quite a few people who studied the sign but did not stop to talk. The high school Environmental Club did a phenomenal job recycling at the event. Perhaps in the future instead of setting up a table we can work with the Club on this event.

Alina and Rachel presented the public-use recycling bins to the Library Board of Trustees a few weeks ago. The trustees seemed interested in the idea, and tabled it for further discussion. The next step will be to present the idea to Mike McGovern, Town Manager.

During Maine Recycles Week (November 8-15), Pat Anderson would like to show recycling information on a tv at the Swap Shop, as well as on CETV. Louise has contacted Wendy, who is enthusiastic about the idea. At this time, Pat and Wendy are working together directly on the project.

The committee spoke of Randy Cookson, who runs the Gray Transfer Station. He won an ECO Award from EcoMaine for greatly increasing recycling awareness in his town. Alina will contact him to see if he's available to meet with the committee.

For upcoming Courier articles, Louise will write an article on Recycling at the Cape Veterinary Center, run by Lynda Bond. Other ideas were articles on where to go if you missed the e-waste collection, shopping smart at the grocery store, a piece on the high school's Environmental Club, and where hard drives go after they have been taken at the e-waste collection.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

The next meetings will be at Public Works at **7 P.M., Thursday, November 30, and December 21, 2006.**

Respectfully submitted, Sarah K. Choi, Secretary