

Town of Cape Elizabeth Recycling Committee
Minutes of January 29, 2009 Meeting

Members Present: Jennifer Hansen, John Kane, David Ernst, Mike Pulsifer, Bill Wadman

Members Absent: Greg Walsh

Staff: Bob Malley, Director of Public Works

Jennifer Hansen called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm in the Public Works Building conference room.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the December 18, 2008 meeting; motion approved.

A motion was made and seconded to select Jennifer Hansen as Chairperson of the committee for 2009; the motion was approved.

A motion was made and seconded to select David Ernst as Secretary of the committee; the motion was approved.

Geraldine Davis' resignation from the committee was acknowledged.

Three new members, John Kane, David Ernst and Bill Wadman, were introduced.

Bob Malley spent some time explaining to the group the purpose of the committee, its efforts to date at increasing Cape's recycling rate, and some of the economics and logistics of recycling and refuse disposal as applies to our town.

December's recycling rate - (tons recycled)/(total tons in hopper + tons recycled) – stayed relatively high at 32.7%. This compares favorably with Yarmouth which also operates a Recycling Center; this falls behind other nearby towns which use pay per bag and/or curbside pickup.

The market price for recycled material fluctuates considerably and is currently quite low. The town is now paying \$160/ton to have material in the hopper hauled but only \$40/ton for silver bullet items.

Remainder of the meeting focused on work to be done for the year to increase our recycling rates, both for environmental and economic reasons.

Bob described upcoming efforts aimed at increasing school recycling rates. Jennifer will contact School Superintendent Alan Hawkins for review of this issue.

Articles for the Cape Courier on recycling will continue to be written by rotating members of the committee. John will do one introducing new members, for the February 14 issue, and Mike will do the March 7 issue.

John will also review the town's recycling website for current and accurate information, and will keep it up to date with the help of our web manager Wendy Derzawiec.

All were encouraged to read and collect pertinent articles about various recycling topics, both for public education and for town council members. David will coordinate this.

Lastly, the group was very enthusiastic about touring ecomaine's facility for education on their waste-to-energy, landfill-ash, and recycling programs. This will be scheduled for the near future.

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm. The next meeting will take place on February 26, 2009 at 7 pm at the Public Works Building.

Respectfully submitted, David Ernst, Secretary.

