

Town of Cape Elizabeth Recycling Committee
Draft: Minutes of March 26, 2009 Meeting

Members present: Mary Brock, David Ernst, Jennifer Hansen, John Kane, Bill Wadman

Members absent: Mike Pulsifer, Greg Walsh

Administration: Bob Malley, Director of Public Works

Jennifer Hansen called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm in the Public Works Building conference room.

A motion was made by Bill and seconded by Mary to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2009 meeting. Motion unanimously approved.

The town's recycling rates from ecomaine were reviewed for January and February. They remain respectfully high at 33.88% and 33.98%. Hence our rate has continued to improve throughout the fiscal year, which stands at 28.68% from July 1, 2008 through February 2009.

Bob reported that overall tonnage of both solid waste and recycled material is down secondary to the down economy.

Ideas for future articles for the Cape Courier were discussed, including an interesting concept of how to pack ones vehicle for maximum efficiency when navigating the transfer station's various stops, offered by one of our transfer station attendants.

The new Bottle Shed web page is now up and running, thanks to the committee's joint efforts with Cape's web manager Wendy Derzawiec.

There was a detailed discussion of the new recycling center fee schedule effective May 1, 2009, introduced to the committee by Bob Malley. The increase in some fees (e.g. commercial hauler permits, white goods with freon, propane tanks) reflect higher disposal costs of these items, while the elimination of some fees (e.g. brush and limb waste from an automobile) reflect an attempt at fairness between autos and the higher capacity of SUVs and pickup trucks.

The new Recycling Center brochure will be developed soon and the old one has been removed from the website due to the rapid shifts in what can and can't be recycled, the change in the center's hours of operation, etc. Jennifer will review and expedite this.

Discussion continued re: the RC's activity in raising recycling awareness at the upcoming Harvest Festival in September and Maine Recycles Week in November. We hope to involve the schools to a large extent, and Jennifer has written to Superintendent Hawkins inviting him to submit ideas and also to involve students in recycling on a daily basis. Other ideas include enlisting the high school's environment club, trial presence of a commercial paper shredder, selling more shopping bags with the "Cape Recycle" logo, and John's thoughts about redesign of a large container to hold recyclables that would allow easy deposit into the silver bins.

Lastly, a brief discussion on biodegradable pet waste bags was had.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm. The next meeting will be at the Public Works building **at 7 pm on April 23, 2009.**

Respectfully submitted, David Ernst, secretary.