

Cape Elizabeth, Maine - Recycling Committee
Minutes of December 10, 2009 meeting

Members present: Mary Brock, David Ernst, Jennifer Hansen, John Kane, Mike Pulsifer, Bill Wadman. Members absent: Greg Walsh

Administration: Bob Malley Guest: Michael McGovern, Town Manager

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm. Motion to approve the October 22 minutes made by Mike, seconded by Bill and approved by all.

Mike McGovern was present to share information on several issues, including the Swap Shop and the purpose of the Municipal Operations Review Committee. He recognized the recent Swap Shop abuses by a few individuals, occasional badgering of citizens by these individuals, and the RC's efforts to curb these abuses. According to Bob Malley, these problems have significantly abated after new signage was placed limiting parking to fifteen minutes and visits to the Swap Shop to once per day. Of note, there is no official volunteer program for staffing the shop.

The Municipal Operations Review Committee is charged with searching for ways for all non-school operations to become not only self-supporting but also capable of generating income. The goal is to avoid any property tax increases to pay for town expenditures. The two major operations being targeted first are Fort Williams Park and the Recycling Center. Re: the latter, the issue of pay-per-bag is now being revisited by the town as a possibility, in spite of its rejection one year ago.

A long discussion of ways to increase recycling rates at the lower and middle schools ensued. Major efforts are needed, and will start in a top-down approach, from Superintendent Hawkins to the custodians. Jennifer will send a letter from the RC to the superintendent, urging renewed and strong efforts on everyone's part and offering the RC's help.

The need for a collection system for compact fluorescent lights (CFL's) in the Cape was discussed next. CFL's are currently not accepted at the recycling center, and only some stores accept them. Ecomaine has a large interest in this issue, primarily in keeping CFL's out of the trash-to-energy stream (incinerator) and hence risking exceeding their allowable stack emissions for mercury. This issue is being worked on at multiple levels.

The recycling center is currently out of storage space for TV's, and needs to address this problem. There is currently no cost to the town for TV disposal, but erratic collection makes storage an issue.

Cape's recycling numbers for October and November were reviewed, and are holding up at 28.86% and 32.09% respectively.

Maine Recycles Week was briefly recapped.

Jennifer will check with Greg about the next Courier recycling article due.

Bill Wadland will be finishing his RC term this year, and the committee thanked him for his past efforts. His position will be assumed by Sharon Roberts in January.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm. The **next meeting will be on Thursday, January 28, 2010 at 7 pm** in the Public Works Building.

Respectfully submitted, David Ernst, secretary.