

**R E C Y C L I N G   C O M M I T T E E**  
**Town of Cape Elizabeth**  
**Minutes of Meeting of 5 May 2011**

**Present: John Kane, chair, Patt Bothel, David Ernst, Peter Frye, Jamie Garvin, William Marshall, Robert Malley.**

**1) The meeting was called to order by Chair John Kane at 7:05 p.m. in the conference room at the Public Works Bldg.**

**2) Marshall moved, Bothel seconded, to approve the Minutes of the meeting of 7 April. The motion was voted and passed.**

**3) Citizen comment on items not on the agenda. None.**

**4) Malley presented the Recycling Center Updates and Rates. The good news is that tonnage continues to decrease.**

**5) Malley is arranging a meeting with the South Portland Recycling Ctee, time to be arranged in June.**

**6) Kane announced that the Cape Power Hour is being arranged to be held shortly.**

**7) Bothel plans to submit an article to The Current. There was a general discussion of writing articles and ways to clear them through the Ctee.**

**Bothel reported that she had, as of the time of the meeting, 12 phone calls as a result of her vermicomposting video having been shown on CETV. The video will continue to show on CETV through the month of May.**

**8) Kane circulated a report he wrote on the ecomaine idea exchange held on 27 April 2011 at ecomaine. This is an excellent comprehensive report of ideas shared at this meeting. Attached.**

**9) The ebulletin board as discussed at the 27 April meeting at ecomaine was discussed. Posting on this ebulletin board will be done through Garvin and Malley.**

**10) The use of technology at our Recycle Ctee meetings was discussed but is not as yet operational.**

**11) Composting Bin program—82 bins and 44 pails have been ordered through Public Works. The delivery date has been changed. Buyers will be advised of delivery and pickup times.**

**12) Significant progress in all areas of the earlier approved Work Plan have been made.**

**13) Family Fun Day is 11 June at Fort Williams. Kane and Garvin discussed various plans for the day and staffing the Ctee's table at the event.**

**In addition, a general discussion took place about signage at the Recycling Center and general operation of the HAZMAT collection day on 14 May.**

**14) It was agreed that Garvin would develop a questionnaire about the use of the Recycling Center and bring to the meeting on 2 June for discussion.**

**There was no comment at the end of the meeting from citizens re items not on the agenda.**

**Next meeting 2 June 2011 same time and place.**

**The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.**

**These Minutes were approved without change at the monthly meeting of the Recycling Ctee on 2 June 2011.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**W. H. Marshall**

ecomaine Idea Exchange – April 27, 2011

Kudos to Shelly Dunn of ecomaine for organizing the Idea Exchange between town representatives. The meeting was attended by members of various Recycling/Energy Committees as well as Town Councilors and Public Works Directors. Kevin Roche and Missy Labbe of ecomaine participated.

There was a presentation of the new Electronic Bulletin Board that promises to be an ongoing idea exchange between ecomaine's member municipalities' public works departments and recycling/energy committees. Each town has a web page where they can share upcoming events, informational documents including photos and videos that are related to recycling initiatives. Each muni is responsible to posting information to their page and any member can view all other pages. It is intended to keep members informed of the initiatives throughout southern Maine. It looks like a winner!

Three officials from different towns with the highest recycling rates shared their success stories. Jamie Welch from Pownal, Bonnie Rodden from Falmouth and Doug Fortnier from Windham all trumpeted pay-as-you throw initiatives as a necessary initiative that encouraged their respective towns to increase recycling and decrease solid waste. Interesting side issues were the implementation of compacting recycled material to dramatically reduce the cost of transportation (Pownal), the use of commercial sized compost bins (Windham) and strategic placement of Silver Bullets (Falmouth).

An astounding presentation by the Portland Waste Reduction Group was given by creators Susan Webster and Martha Sheils. What began as a grass roots initiative to reduce lunchroom waste in one Portland school has blossomed into a community movement that manages pilot programs in over ten of Portland's seventeen schools. Their experience has shown the importance of attainable goals, well chosen pilot programs, cooperation among students, teachers, administrators and staff as well as teacher incentives and the creation of "Green Teams". The best news is the eagerness within the schools once they are approached and the "kids are enjoying it!"

Susan and Martha also reported on the Portland's commercial composting facility pilot program at the Riverside Recycling Facility. That alone has the potential of reducing the weight of lunchroom waste by 40 to 60%! At present there are three schools participating. Their goal is "ZERO WASTE." They believe it can be done. Every material that is discarded can be used for something and will be in the future.

The final agenda item included presentations by three Public Works Directors on the subject of How To Work With Your Transfer Station Manager. Roger Mosley of Standish, our own Bob Malley of Cape Elizabeth and Erik Street of Yarmouth all agree that communication is the key. Every attendant and director is an ambassador for their town, an educator and a diplomat. They also share intense enthusiasm for recycling and the proper disposal of materials. Interesting initiatives included a 14 day temporary sticker for seasonal residents in Standish, our attendants in Cape Elizabeth who are empowered to make decisions and Yarmouth's classes on residential composting that include a composting bin at a subsidized price.

All in all it was an evening that made this "reporter" proud to be associated with such capable, committed and affable people who are willing to share their success stories for the betterment of Southern Maine.

Submitted by John Kane, Cape Elizabeth Recycling Committee