

RECYCLING COMMITTEE
Town of Cape Elizabeth

Minutes of the August 1, 2013 Meeting

Present: David Ernst, Jamie Garvin, Jessica Simpson, Peter Frye, John Kane, and Robert Malley

Absent: William Marshall

1) The meeting was called to order by Chair Jamie Garvin at 7:07 p.m. in the conference room of the Public Works Building.

2) With the resignation of Patt Bothel, John Kane agreed to record the meeting minutes.

3) The June 6 Meeting Minutes were approved. Approval of the May 2 minutes to be tabled to the September 5 meeting. (Bob will follow up with Patt.)

4) There was no public comment.

5) Bob Malley provided a Recycling Center update. Notable in his report was:

- Bob reported that Jess's noticing a possible error in the manner in which tonnages are accumulated in ecomaine's monthly report resulted in the accountant needing to recalculate many towns' numbers going back in time. The issue was that bulky waste was inadvertently added into MSW numbers, which adversely affects the towns' recycling percentages. This will affect numbers for all towns that use ecomaine to dispose of their bulky waste.
- Regarding follow up to Swap Shop discussions, Bob reported that despite efforts by the Recycling Center staff to keep the Swap Shop clean, the volume of material and the frequency of residents' trips present an ongoing challenge. If people avoided leaving anything that

they would not take home themselves and refrain from “dumping” items that are listed as fee requiring, that would significantly help make the Swap Shop more manageable.

6) John Kane was elected Temporary Secretary. The Committee agreed that there would be no replacement sought for Patt’s remaining term since that position will be filled in January 2014 through the formal appointments process.

7) The Committee discussed at length whether to become proactive in pursuing a town wide composting program. Jamie began the discussion by mentioning recent news about NYC’s ambitious effort as well as one in Massachusetts. Bob reported that ecomaine is studying the issue and will provide their findings prior to our next meeting; Bob will follow up and report back. Bob also cautioned that any program would need to be thought through from marketing and education efforts to implementation and disposal of compost products. He reminded the Committee of the great job Greg Williams and his partner Brett Richardson are doing with the school pilot program. Jamie mentioned the Garbage to Garden business in South Portland and speculated whether they might be interested in branching out into Cape. David raised concerns about motivation and participation in Cape since we already have many avid home composters. John added he would prefer another option for those who are unable or unwilling to do home composting. Jess added that her composting efforts do not produce the amount of material she requires for her own garden. Both Bob and Jamie addressed the question of “why compost?”. Jamie stated the weight reduction potential in our municipal waste would be dramatic since composting material is composed mostly of water. Bob added that ecomaine’s motivation is that it requires large amounts of energy to burn food waste. Jamie reiterated that the Recycling Committee’s mandate is to suggest ways to reduce the waste stream. Other more specific actions and possible programs were mentioned and discussed. A concern was raised that we need to act in support of

any future Town Council initiative. The Committee agreed to keep our options open and put this item on future agendas.

8) Two drafts of future Courier articles were reviewed. Jamie previewed his “Recycling Roundup” and Jess previewed her article on the Swap Shop titled “A Town Treasure Turning to Trash?”.

9) Recap of Family Fun Day Tabling: Jamie thanked the members who manned the Recycling Committee table. It was reported that most of the questions concerned composting, that the promotional items went over well and that it was a positive experience.

10) Other Business:

John suggested a Fall Volunteer Recycling Day and Jamie advocated for a Swap Shop focused effort. The Committee agreed and set the date tentatively for Saturday October 5, concurrent with a “Shred Fest”.

11) There was no final public comment.

12) Jessica Simpson moved, seconded by David Ernst, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting is 7:00 p.m. September 5, 2013.