

RECYCLING COMMITTEE
Town of Cape Elizabeth

Minutes of the September 5, 2013 Meeting

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

- 1) The meeting was called to order by Chair Jamie Garvin at 7:08 p.m. in the conference room of the Public Works Building.
- 2) The August 2 Meeting Minutes were approved. Approval of the May 2 minutes to be tabled to the October 3 meeting (Bob).
- 3) There was no public comment.
- 4) Tentative discussion with South Portland's Recycling Committee Member Todd Erickson has been postponed until the November meeting (Jamie).
- 5) Outreach Items:
 - a) Jess's Courier article on the Swap Shop generated positive feedback including at least one volunteer offer (Jamie and Bob).
 - b) Cape Business Alliance contact is being pursued to encourage local businesses to increase recycling (Jamie).
 - c) An announcement will be submitted to the Cape Courier concerning Recycling Committee Volunteer Day at Swap Shop (see below, Item 8d) and waiving of citizen disposal fees on selected weekends (Bob).
 - d) Courier article "Types of Cardboard" planned for November (Jamie).
 - e) Proposed Courier article "Purchasing Smart" to raise awareness of reducing waste in packaging as well as overall reduction in buying (Pete).
- 6) Bob Malley provided a Recycling Center update. Notable in his report were the following:
 - According to the ecomaine July report, Cape recycling tonnage is down slightly to 29.25%. (Note there is a retroactive restating of numbers due to over counting of one category.)
 - An additional Swap Shop article reinforced Jess' previous article.

7) A Shredding Event is scheduled to coincide with the Volunteer Day. Residents can bring documents that will be shredded on site and in a secure manner (Bob).

8) Other Business Items:

a) Bob attended a conference on Food Waste Composting where Bakersfield, California's program includes an innovative process that allows plastic bags to be culled out by shredding and vacuuming. Also notable, leaf & yard waste are mixed 1:1 with the composted material which is made available to residents without "cooking".

b) Also reported by Bob, Whitehouse, Victoria, Australia has an extremely low tipping fee of \$190 per year, which is undoubtedly helped by the participation of homeless people who do the sorting. Whitehouse is aiming for zero tons to landfill and have a "Detox Your Home" program. Yet they are struggling with food waste.

c) Regarding local food waste composting, Bob reported that Greg Williams' program (from Portland) is expanding to Brunswick and ecomaine will release its region wide pilot project ideas shortly.

d) Cape Recycling Committee Volunteer Day is scheduled for Saturday October 19 at the Swap Shop from 9am to 1pm. Members will split the time and attend in pairs to help arrange the items and pass out promotional recycling literature.

9) There was no final public comment.

10) Jessica Simpson moved, seconded by David Ernst, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting is 7:00 p.m. October 3, 2013.