

RECYCLING COMMITTEE
Town of Cape Elizabeth

Minutes of the November 7, 2013 Meeting

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

1) The meeting was called to order by Chair Jamie Garvin at 7:04 p.m. in the conference room of the Public Works Building.

2) The May 2nd Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously. (Bill Moved; Jess Seconded)

3) The October 3rd Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously. (Bill Moved; Jamie Seconded)

4) There was no public comment.

5) Recycling Center Update & Rates.

a) The recycling rates are up slightly to 30.76%. (Bob)

b) Bob noted that the yearly State DEP Solid Waste form requires municipalities to report individual tonnage totals for all forms of recycled and waste material. The state has discontinued publication of the statewide results.

c) Regarding the above item, it is noteworthy that the Swap Shop saves between 600 to 700 tons of material from becoming waste or recycling. Also, by cutting electrical cords from disposed TV's, air conditioners and other electronic appliances, Transfer Station employees have netted the town about \$1,000 in salvaged metal.

6) Discussion with Todd Erickson, Chairperson of the South Portland Energy & Recycling Committee. Todd spoke about South Portland's committee, answered many of our committee's questions and asked us about our committee's approach to common issues. These include:

- South Portland's efforts at food waste composting, and the "Garbage to Garden" company that is piloting a fee based pickup program where participants have access to the 100% organic compost soil generated by the process. Bob described Cape Middle School pilot program.
- Todd expressed his view that his committee's mandate is an educational one. The more residents know about good recycling procedures, the more likely they are to employ them.
- Jamie asked Todd to describe the organization of SOPO's Energy & Recycling Committee.
- Todd complemented Cape on our community wide events which he views as a unique feature of Cape.
- Jamie inquired about business outreach.

- John asked whether SOPO is considering a Swap Shop. (not at present) Bob explained the history of our Swap Shop and the Bottle Shed which brings between \$2,000-\$3,000 to the managing Cape charitable organization each month.
- Todd concluded his visit with a cordial invitation to our committee members to visit one of their future meetings. The South Portland Energy & Recycling Committee meets at 6pm on the third Wednesday of the month at the Community Center.

7) Jamie reported that the October Shredding Event / Volunteer Day was very well received by the public. The kids liked the Frisbee promotions. There was much discussion and interest in composting. (Note: Public Works will be selling composting bins at a subsidized rate next spring.) The shredder attracted about 25 to 30 cars per hour and netted over 4 tons of prime grade paper.

8) Discussion on protocol for engaging the public at the Transfer Station and Town Hall Recycling Area. Bob described the issues and explained the protocol that strongly suggests a citizen not engage an apparent violator. Instead he/she is advised to report the incident to Bob at Public Works and/or the police.

9) The committee revisited October discussion on recognition for RC volunteers who have been making visible progress in keeping the Swap Shop organized.

10) Jamie announced that November 15 is America Recycles Day

11) Other Business

a) Jamie reported his company needed to dispose of tee shirts in a manner that avoided possible use that might cause negative impact on the company. The solution was from Maine Resource Recovery Association that will be reusing the cotton fabric in a useful manner.

b) Bob noted that there will be two openings in January on the Recycling Committee as well as others on various Town Committees.

12) There was no final public comment.

13) Jessica moved, seconded by Pete, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted by John Kane.