

**RECYCLING COMMITTEE**  
**Town of Cape Elizabeth**

**Minutes of the July 10, 2014 Meeting (Approved September 4, 2014)**

**Present:** Jamie Garvin, David Ernst, Kara Law, William Schmitz, and Robert Malley.  
John Kane, Jessica Simpson and Peter Frye were absent.

- 1) The meeting was called to order by Jamie at 7:04 p.m. in the conference room of the Public Works Building. Jamie agreed to record the minutes in John's absence.
- 2) The May 1 Meeting Minutes were approved (Bill moved; Jamie seconded).
- 3) There was no public comment.
- 4) Recycling Center Update
  - Bob reported on the paper shredding event that was held at the Recycling Center in June. Some highlights:
    - Well received by the public – lots of positive comments and appreciation for the service
    - Approx. 24 totes were collected and shredded; each tote weighs about 270 lbs.
    - Next shredding event will be in October, and Recycling Cmte will be on site to support and engage in citizen outreach
  - Bob also summarized the Household Hazardous Waste day held in May, and shared results of the survey fielded on site at the event. Some highlights:
    - Roughly the same amount of traffic/participation as previous year; like the shredding event, strong appreciation for the service being provided
    - Oil based paints, solvents/cleaners, fluorescent bulbs, pesticides and batteries were among the most common items dropped off
    - An overwhelming number of participants heard about the event from the insert in the *Cape Courier*
    - Approx.  $\frac{3}{4}$  had participated previously, and nearly the same percentage indicated a willingness to pay a disposal fee if it was charged
- 5) Bottle Shed Update & Discussion
  - The Cmte had a lengthy discussion about the bottle shed. The discussion began with Bob's update that based on the recent lottery, there are only enough booster/non-profit groups signed up to service the bottle shed through December 2014. Based on declining interest in staffing the bottle shed, conversations have been initiated with Bob and Mike McGovern to explore possible changes to the program administration and service models. To date, Bob has held a meeting with Clynk (who manages similar programs in several other southern Maine communities, and will be preparing a proposal for Cape Elizabeth to review); and has a meeting set up with Madden (current provider) to review the situation and discuss possible solutions. Among other considerations for the Town is administration and distribution of proceeds from the bottle shed.

Discussion among the Cmte included:

- It was suggested that the Clynk service has (anecdotally) had an impact on groups' interest in staffing the bottle shed (i.e., less work and easier for groups to raise funds by distributing Clynk bags to their organizations/supporters).
- There was strong agreement that the bottle shed should continue to be offered as a service for residents and source of fundraising for appropriate organizations.
- Also, while there was agreement that it is up to the Town, not the Cmte, to determine appropriate distribution of proceeds from the bottle shed, most felt it was appropriate to continue to have the proceeds benefit the types of organizations that have historically participated in the program.
- Most agreed that a more self-service system was necessary in order to create a more sustainable model for the program going forward.

6) Swap Shop Update & Support

- Bill called the Cmte's attention to the ongoing need for support at the swap shop. Linda and company's efforts have made a huge difference in the overall condition and organization of the facility. Even with that, there is an ever-present need for users to help to keep up the swap shop. The Cmte discussed possible ways to assist – from volunteering time at the swap shop, to working on specific improvement projects (e.g., shelving, etc.), to raising community awareness. Jamie agreed to draft an article to submit to the *Cape Courier* for its next issue.

7) Update on Goal #4 from work plan – increasing regional partnership

- Bill reported on his research on the town of Kennebunk.
- Jamie will be attending an upcoming meeting of the South Portland committee.
- All will continue with their individual town assignments.

8) Update on Goal #3 from work plan – increasing composting

- The Cmte discussed at a high level the framework/outline of what to include in the white paper assessing the state of composting in Cape Elizabeth.
- It was agreed that an online survey would be developed and fielded as part of the assessment. The Cmte will come to the September meeting with recommendations for questions to include in the survey. An online survey platform (such as Survey Monkey) will be used to field the survey, which would be promoted on the town website, in the *Cape Courier*, etc.

9) Community Outreach/*Cape Courier* Articles

- Jamie will submit an article for the upcoming issue of the *Cape Courier* addressing the swap shop.

10) There was no Other Business introduced, nor any final public comment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m. (Bill moved; Kara seconded.)

The next scheduled meeting is 7:00 pm, September 4, 2014.

Respectfully submitted by Jamie Garvin.