

RECYCLING COMMITTEE
Town of Cape Elizabeth

Minutes of the September 4, 2014 Meeting

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

- 1) The meeting was called to order by Jamie at 7:05 p.m. in the conference room of the Public Works Building. Jamie agreed to record the minutes in John's absence.
- 2) The July 10 Meeting Minutes were approved with a few minor grammar/typo corrections. (David moved; Bill seconded.)
- 3) There was no public comment.
- 4) Recycling Center Update
 - Bob provided a general update on activity at the Recycling Center. Things are busy as usual. He mentioned that there had been some good anecdotal feedback on the recent articles published about the Swap Shop in *The Courier* and *The Current*. In spite of the articles (or perhaps even as an unintended result of), there continues to be an issue with non-Cape Elizabeth residents using the facility. Bob mentioned a specific recent incident in which a letter of reprimand had to be sent to a non-resident. Bob also noted that he did receive a request from someone interested in volunteering at the Swap Shop following the article.
- 5) Bottle Shed Update & Discussion
 - Further to the discussion at the July 10 meeting, Bob provided an update to the Cmte regarding the ongoing discussions about the operation of the Bottle Shed. Clynk has submitted a formal proposal to take over operation of the facility, and a proposal is pending from Madden (current vendor). The need to make a decision on the go-forward plan for the facility is becoming more urgent with December approaching, as no booster/youth/non-profit groups are currently signed up beyond that month. Bob also reported that he and Mike McGovern would be meeting with CE Superintendent of Schools Meredith Nadeau on Sept. 5 to update her on the overall status and discuss ideas for how to disperse the proceeds from the operation.
 - The Cmte reiterated its position from the July 10 meeting that the Bottle Shed should continue to operate, with whatever is deemed to be the most viable model. We will support any transition in operations with community outreach and education efforts.
- 6) Review of Outline for Composting White Paper
 - Jamie shared a draft outline to be used as the foundation for developing a position paper addressing composting (Goal #3 from 2014 Goal Plan). The Cmte will collaboratively develop the position paper over the next several months, with the final product to be distributed for informational purposes to the Town Manager, Town Council, Director of Public Works, as well as made available to the public via the Town's website. It was suggested that a good working model might entail individual Cmte members providing input to Jamie (who would serve as lead author) in the form of research findings, facts and other information supporting each of

the key topic areas addressed in the outline. The Cmte will further determine the assignment of work at a future meeting.

7) Composting Survey

- Related to the previous item, the Cmte discussed fielding a survey (online, via Survey Monkey) with the goal of gauging overall community interest in composting. The survey findings would be incorporated as a key section of the position paper being developed.

Bill provided a good first draft of questions that the Cmte reviewed and discussed. It was agreed that a workshop should be scheduled to further refine the questions and finalize the survey with the goal of fielding the survey in October. (See "Other Business" for scheduling of the aforementioned workshop.)

8) Planning for October Shredding Event

- Bob confirmed **October 11 (9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.)** as the date of the Shredding Event to be held at the Recycling Center. As with the event last fall, the Cmte agreed to be on site to support the staff and engage in community outreach with residents at the Recycling Center. We will assign staffing times via email in the coming weeks.

9) Recent Media Coverage; Ideas for New Articles

- The recent articles about the Swap Shop in *The Courier* and *The Current* were highlighted. Jamie requested that other Cmte members continue to think of new ideas for article submissions. One topic Jamie plans to write about closer to the holidays is responsible purchasing of gifts/items with limited and/or recyclable packaging.

10) Other Business

- The Cmte scheduled **Thursday, September 25, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Public Works Building** for a workshop to finalize the composting survey. Bob said he would take care of communicating to Wendy to allow for posting on the website and public notice.
- Jessica provided a summary of her review of recycling activities in Scarborough. (Goal #4)
- Jamie made mention of some upcoming Maine Resource Recovery Association webinars (one in particular focused on organics), and encouraged the Cmte to sign up to receive their email updates/newsletters.

10) There was no final public comment. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m. (Jessica moved; Kara seconded.)

The composting survey workshop will be September 25, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

The Cmte will meet at the October 11, 2014 shredding event at the Recycling Center from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting is November 6, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jamie Garvin.