

RECYCLING COMMITTEE

TOWN OF CAPE ELIZABETH

Minutes of the February 5, 2015 Meeting

Present: Kara Law, William Schmitz, Jessica Simpson, Peter Frye, Jennifer MacDonald, Tracy Floyd, Jessica Sullivan and Robert Malley.

- 1) **Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Peter Frye, at 7:06 p.m. in the conference room of the Public Works Building. Jessica Simpson agreed to record the minutes due to Jamie Garvin's (Secretary) absence.
- 2) **Minutes:** The committee unanimously approved the January 8 minutes as amended with one correction. (Moved by Bill, seconded by Kara).
- 3) **Public Comment:** No members of the public present.
- 4) **Bottle Redemption Building Update:** Bob Malley wanted to convey a big "Thank You" to the Lions Club for stepping in and sorting bottles during the month of January. The Lions were very gracious by agreeing on very short notice and as usual, their volunteers did an excellent job. Peter agreed that public thanks are due and will have a short thank you appear in the Cape Courier. The Town has contracted with a new vendor, Boots Bounty for bottle redemption. They began in February and are providing a no sort program. The public just has to place their cans and bottles in the barrels provided by the vendor. Signage explaining the new system has been added to the building and the capacity for receiving bottles is quite large. Boots Bounty will collect the bottles approximately every 2 weeks. As previously decided by Council, a three person committee will distribute proceeds from the redemption to groups in CE who engage in youth activities, both in and out of the schools. This policy allows for groups such as Lions and Boy Scouts to continue to be considered for proceeds.
- 5) **Recycling Center Modifications:** Bob Malley reported that the new traffic pattern and procedures at the transfer station were going reasonably well. The signage has been tweaked, and the carts are being utilized. People are accepting and cooperating with the changes. Two staff members are intermittently there to provide guidance, answer questions and receive feedback from the public. Bob is pleased with the progress being made. There was some discussion about the top loading silver bullets and possibly resubmitting the previous Courier article written by Jamie, along with photographs, to remind the public that there are 2 top loading silver bullets on the opposite side of the transfer station. Bob also reported that additional signage was placed behind town hall reminding people that only recyclable material should be left in that area.

- 6) **Solid Waste Long Range Planning Update:** Jessica Sullivan, liaison to the Town Council, reported that the committee has had their 2nd meeting. They tackled the decision making process and each person on the committee took on a research project, since this committee has been charged with “looking at everything”. Topics include, but are not limited to the following: “pay per bag”, cost of curbside pickup, current operational costs, land use in town, site boundaries, site usage, community outreach, compactor replacement. Committee members are now in the process of data collection and will have their next meeting Wednesday, 2 p.m. in the conference room of the public works building. Bill Schmitz asked why town run (employee) curbside pickup was eliminated from their list of possibilities. Jessica Sullivan and Bob Malley explained that potential costs, potential liabilities and lack of mechanized recycle/trash pickup trucks made the option untenable. Bill also suggested that the topic of municipal composting be added to their list.
- 7) **Composting White Paper Draft:** tabled until the March meeting when Jamie will be able to present for discussion. Full composting survey result discussion will occur next month as well.
- 8) **Messaging and Courier Articles:** Tracy has written an article “Gorgeously Green”, which he will send to Peter and Bob for review and then on to the Courier or publication.
- 9) **Other Business:** Kara reported that she nominated Appletree School in CE for the Eco-Maine Eco Excellence award and was informed that the Appletree School has won! Jessica Simpson reported about a web site, City-Data.com that has demographic information and public forums regarding towns and communities across the U.S. Cape Elizabeth appears frequently in the topics section of the Portland sub-forum and might be of interest to the members.
- 10) **Citizen Discussion of Agenda Items:** No public present.
- 11) **Adjournment:** Tracy moved, Bill seconded – meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 5, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jessica Simpson