

RECYCLING COMMITTEE
Town of Cape Elizabeth

Minutes of the November 5, 2015 Meeting

Present: Peter Frye (Chair), William Schmitz, Jessica Simpson, Robert Malley, Kara Law, Jennifer MacDonald, Jessica Sullivan.

- 1) The meeting was called to order by Peter at 7:08 p.m. in the conference room of the Public Works Building.
- 2) Minutes of the September 3 meeting were approved. (Bill moved; Kara seconded; all in favor.)
- 3) There were no members of the public present for the citizen comment period.
- 4) Jessica and Bob provided an update on the presentation of the Solid Waste and Recycling Long Range Planning (SWRLRP) Committee final report to Town Council on October 19.
 - The report was well received by the Council. They were very appreciative of the SWRLRP Committee's efforts and had a few questions for the SWRLRP Committee.
 - A public hearing has been set for January 4, 2016 on the report. Jessica Sullivan encouraged Recycling Committee members to attend and to voice their opinions on the report.
 - The \$1.3 million cost of the proposed plan means that the plan will have to go to a bond referendum. This could happen either on the June ballot with the school budget, or the November 2016 ballot.
 - The Recycling Committee thanked Jessica Sullivan for keeping us informed about the progress of the SWRLRP Committee throughout the process.
- 5) Bill, Jen, Kara, Jessica and Jamie participated in the site visit to the Recycling Center on October 17. They helped out at the Swap Shop, observed patron behavior and discussed improvements that could be made to the Swap Shop and bottle shed with Swap Shop volunteers. These suggestions include:
 - Writing another article for the Cape Courier to address the bottle shed, informing citizens that they should not simply drop off bags of bottles in the shed, but instead should empty their bags of mixed containers (plastic, glass, cans) into the barrels provided in the shed. There are no regular volunteers manning the shed, and when it is not used properly the Recycling Center staff must manage this issue.
 - It would be very helpful to have a dedicated vehicle to take the piles of trash to the compactor and silver bullets that Swap Shop volunteers generate when sorting through left items. Bob said volunteers should ask the Recycling Center staff to help with this.
 - Swap Shop volunteers would be most helpful late in the day on Saturday, when drop off volume peaks just before the Recycling Center closes.
- 6) Bob reported that activity has been "business as usual" at the Recycling Center.
- 7) Peter will talk to Tracy about writing an article for the Courier about the bottle shed. An article about composting is scheduled to appear in the next issue.
- 8) Several items were discussed during Other Business:

- Peter thanked Jessica Simpson for her 5 year service on the Recycling Committee, and also thanked Jamie Garvin (in absentia) for his service, including as past Chair and current Secretary.
- Jessica Sullivan reported that she received a call from a member of Yarmouth's Recycling Committee asking why Cape Elizabeth does not have a pay-per-throw system.
- Bob noted that the Garbage to Garden composting business has started serving Cape Elizabeth.
- There was some discussion of the role of the Recycling Committee, in light of new members joining at the start of the new year. Bob said there is still a need for outreach and messaging in the community, including thought-provoking articles in the Courier. He suggested that the committee discuss its role and set goals at the January meeting.

9) There were no members of the public present for the citizen comment period.

10) The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:25 p.m. (Jennifer moved; Bill seconded.)

The next scheduled meeting is January 7 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kara Law.