

RECYCLING COMMITTEE
Town of Cape Elizabeth

Minutes of the January 7, 2016 Meeting

Present: Peter Frye (Chair), William Schmitz, Tracy Floyd, Jennifer MacDonald, Aubrey Miller, Matthew Faulkner, Kara Law, Robert Malley.

- 1) The meeting was called to order by Peter at 7:08 p.m. in the conference room of the Public Works Building. New members Aubrey Miller and Matthew Faulkner were welcomed to the committee.
- 2) There were no members of the public present for the citizen comment period.
- 3) Peter Frye was unanimously approved for a second term as committee Chair (Bill moved, Jenn seconded). Kara Law was unanimously approved as committee Secretary (Tracy moved, Jenn seconded).
- 4) Bob gave a brief introduction to the role of the committee, which was formed in 1990 to raise awareness about recycling among the citizens of Cape Elizabeth. The overall recycling rate of all materials (including bulky and yard waste) collected at the Recycling Center is currently ~61%, whereas the material transported to ecomaine (municipal solid waste plus recyclables) is comprised of typically ~31-32% recyclables. Cape Elizabeth does have a policy of mandatory recycling, and has a high rate of recycling of municipal waste compared to other nearby towns that do not have curbside pickup or pay-per-throw systems.
- 5) Bob encouraged all committee members to attend the Boards & Commission Orientation on January 28, 2016 at 6:00pm at Cape Elizabeth High School to learn the details of Maine's Right to Know Law and requirements of the Freedom of Information Act as it applies to communications between committee members.
- 6) The November 5, 2015 meeting minutes were approved (Bill moved, Tracy seconded, Aubrey and Matthew abstained, all others were in favor).
- 7) The 2016 committee meetings schedule was drafted and unanimously approved. Unless otherwise noted, meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Public Works Building on the following dates:
 - January 7
 - March 3
 - May 5, with committee volunteering at the Household Hazardous Waste event on May 14
 - June: In lieu of a meeting, committee volunteering at the Shredding event on June 4 and tabling at the Strawberry Festival (date TBA)
 - August 4
 - September 1
 - October: In lieu of a meeting, committee volunteering at the Swap Shop, and trip to tour ecomaine facility (date TBA)
 - November 3
- 8) There was discussion of the goals and objectives of the committee for 2016.

- Bob noted a Town Council goal to consider banning plastic bags, which the committee was interested in taking up with a goal to submit a recommendation to the Council. Matthew noted that he has prior experience on this topic, having served on the committee that instituted the fee on plastic bags in Portland.
 - The committee discussed the state of recycling in Cape Elizabeth schools and decided to undertake an assessment of the successes and challenges of current practices, and to identify staff liaisons at each school (Pond Cove, Middle and High Schools) who would be willing to help with the assessment and discussion and implementation of potential improvements.
 - Education and communication continues to be a major goal of the committee. Two topics for 2016 were discussed. The first is continued promotion of composting practices such as backyard composting and subsidized sales of Earth Machines; private composting through Garbage to Garden; and the possibility of composting services at the Recycling Center. Bob mentioned that Garbage to Garden inquired about potentially installing bins at the Recycling Center and Bob is in discussion with them on this. A second topic for citizen education is waste reduction.
 - Matthew mentioned an interest in promoting a reduction in use of widespread application of fertilizers and chemical pesticides. Bob indicated this was outside the scope of the committee.
- 9) Bob reported on the outcome of the January 4, 2016 Town Council Public Hearing on the report of the Solid Waste & Recycling Long Range Planning Committee. The Council voted 6:1 to adopt the concept plan and authorized the Town Manager to work with the Council to write a bond question for the June ballot.
- 10) Upcoming articles and future topics of articles for the Cape Courier were discussed. Tracy has an article on the traffic pattern at the Recycling Center scheduled for the next issue, and Peter wrote an article about required practices for the bottle shed. A future topic will be the behavior around the Silver Bullets behind Town Hall, and specifically the overflowing and non-recyclable materials that are frequently found there.
- 11) Several items were discussed during Other Business:
- Bill suggested that the committee nominate James Garvin for the ecomaine eco-Excellence Award. Committee members were in favor and the nomination will be drafted and submitted by Bill and Peter on behalf of the committee.
 - Kara mentioned that a member of the Recycling & Solid Waste Committee in the town of Gray, whom she had contacted in 2014 as part of committee efforts to learn about practices in other towns, emailed with questions about our policies and practices of “fee free” days for collection of bulky waste. Peter suggested inviting him to one of our meetings and/or to tour our facility. Kara will provide an introduction via email.
- 12) There were no members of the public present for the citizen comment period.
- 13) The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m. (Peter moved, Tracy seconded, all in favor)

The next scheduled meeting is March 3 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kara Law.