

RECYCLING COMMITTEE
Town of Cape Elizabeth

Minutes of the March 3, 2016 Meeting

Present: Peter Frye (Chair), William Schmitz, Tracy Floyd, Aubrey Miller, Matthew Faulkner, Kara Law, Sara Lennon.

- 1) The meeting was called to order by Peter at 7:04 p.m. in the conference room of the Public Works Building. Committee members introduced themselves to Town Council liaison Sara Lennon.
- 2) The January 7, 2016 meeting minutes were approved (Bill moved, Tracy seconded, unanimously approved).
- 3) There were no members of the public present for the citizen comment period.
- 4) The committee members that attended the Boards & Commission Orientation provided a brief recap for those members that were unable to attend.
- 5) There was discussion about the invitation from Karen Pride, a member of the Family Fun Day Committee, to support a “Lobster Roll” challenge for children to build a vehicle out of recycled items to race at Family Fun Day. Tracy will follow up with Karen to find out details about how the committee can support this event.
- 6) There was continued discussion of the goals and objectives of the committee for 2016.
 - Retail Packaging Ordinance: The committee will prepare a recommendation to Town Council on a potential ordinance on retail packaging that might include a ban on the use of polystyrene foam food and beverage containers and a fee for paper bags and thin film plastic bags. Matt suggested using the same terms as in the 2015 ordinance in the City of Portland, which were also implemented in the City of South Portland in 2016. Committee members will try to determine which Cape Elizabeth businesses would be subject to the City of Portland terms, and will reach out to business owners and managers in Cape Elizabeth to discuss a potential ordinance.
 - Use of plastic food service items and state of recycling in Cape Elizabeth schools: The committee will pursue the replacement of plastic food service items (e.g., trays, cutlery) in school cafeterias with compostable items. Matt and Sara will try to set up a meeting with the food services director at the schools to discuss this. The committee will also suggest adding displays such as that currently used at the high school to instruct students about which waste items should be put in recycling, composting and trash bins.
 - Education and communication: Matt suggested a recommendation to Town Council that the scope of the committee be expanded to encompass additional environmental and sustainability issues in the town. He will reach out to Bob and then Sara to discuss this possibility. He also suggested an annual newsletter by the committee be mailed to the public reviewing “best practices” for waste management and recycling. Tracy described successful “citizen’s forums” that have been used elsewhere to engage people in discussion about particular topics, that might be a good way to further engage Cape Elizabeth residents about environmental/sustainability issues.

- 7) Tracy contributed to a Courier article describing the widespread dumping that occurred at the Silver Bullets behind Town Hall following the Christmas holiday. Peter has an article ready to go reminding people about the current operations at the bottle shed.
- 8) Several items were discussed during Other Business:
- Former Recycling Committee member and Chair Jamie Garvin was awarded the 2016 ecomaine eco-Excellence Award. He was nominated by Peter and Bill for this award.
 - Peter looked into a tour of ecomaine by the Recycling Committee, which should be straightforward to schedule for October. They are closed from mid-March to mid-May for annual maintenance.
 - Peter visited the Gray transfer station/recycling center and had a very productive tour from the director, Randy Cookson. Peter was very impressed with the operation, which is effectively run as a business, separate from ecomaine.
- 9) There were no members of the public present for the citizen comment period.
- 10) The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:57 p.m. (Tracy moved, Matt seconded, all in favor)

The next scheduled meeting is May 5 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kara Law.