

**Town of Cape Elizabeth  
Recycling Committee**

Meeting Minutes  
November 3, 2016

**Present:** Chair, Peter Frye (PF), Bill Schmitz (BS), Kara Lavender Law (KL) and Matthew Faulkner (MF)

**Absent:** Tracy Floyd (TF), Jennifer MacDonald (JM), Aubrey Miller (AM)

**Staff:** Robert Malley, Director of Public Works (RM)

**Public:** Peter Esposito, Food Service Director, Cape Elizabeth Schools

**Call to Order:** Chairman Peter Frye called the meeting to order @ 7:06 PM.

**Meeting Minutes**

The September 1, 2016 meeting minutes were approved as written (4 Yes, 0 No)

**Citizen Opportunity for Public Comment Not On the Agenda**

There was no public comment

**Committee Member Updates & Correspondence**

RM reported an email he received from Jamie VanAllen, who is a program director at Northern Mentors regarding information received from the Cape Recycles page on the Town's website. The email was forwarded to all Committee members. He also mentioned the September Recycling Report from Ecomaine, which was also sent out the members. The Town recycling rate as calculated by Ecomaine has been consistently at 33%.

**Roundtable Discussion of School Food Service Recycling Program with Peter Esposito**

PF introduced Mr. Esposito, who is the Food Service Director for both the High School and Middle School. He is also in a similar capacity for the Town of Scarborough. He explained the current program in the school, i.e., food waste composting, use of trays, utensils, etc. There was a general discussion about practices in the cafeterias, such as segregation of food waste from refuse, washing of reusable items and the pros and cons of using silverware.

He stated he was supportive of the Committee's proposal to ban polystyrene foam containers, but added there would be a financial impact since the compostable containers are more expensive to purchase.

There was a general discussion about the level of recycling effort in both schools and the need to have a point person internally to generate more passion and effort in the school recycling program. RM suggested that the effort needs to start at the administration level.

Mr. Esposito also explained the gardening program he established at the High School, in which vegetables were raised on the High School property and used in a food service instructional program. MF suggested that Community Garden space may be an option if more space is needed.

There was continued discussion about ways to enhance recycling in the schools and raising the awareness of the need to do so, such as reaching out to teachers who might be of assistance.

MF offered to build a recycling kiosk for the Middle School to help with the segregation of recyclables, food waste and trash in the cafeteria. PF offered to help with the endeavor. RM said the Town would pay for any materials needed.

**Final Review of Proposed Retail Packaging Ordinance**

The Committee reviewed updated drafts from KL sent to members prior to the meeting regarding a proposed ban on the use of polystyrene foam food containers and single use bags. After a brief discussion, it was moved by (BS) and seconded by (KL) to forward the proposed ordinance to the Town Council for their consideration.

Motion passed 4 in favor, 0 opposed. KL will get drafts formatted and send to RM on Friday, November 4, 2016. The proposal will be placed on the November 14, 2016 Town Council Agenda.

### **Follow up on Ecomaine Tour on October 7, 2016**

Those who attended the tour found it informative and interesting how recyclables are sorted and marketed. A general discussion followed regarding the challenges associated with plastics recycling, the value of recyclables and waste-to-energy disposition versus the marketing of recyclables. RM added it was impressive to see the recycling effort in the Southern Maine area reflected at the Ecomaine facility.

### **Education & Outreach**

Ecomaine informed those attending the tour that they are banning plastic bags from the Single Stream program. They have offered to provide us a press release which will be placed in the Cape Courier. KL also offered to write an article on the prohibition.

### **Other Business**

RM reported that the Planning Board approved the Recycling Center Upgrade Project at their meeting on October 18<sup>th</sup>. PF attended the meeting and spoke in support of the proposal. The Town is awaiting approval from the Maine DEP for what is considered a “minor revision” to our current Transfer Station License. It is hoped to have construction drawings done by the end of the year and go out to bid in January with work starting in April of 2017.

BS wanted to recognize the efforts of Carl Pearson, who has done some voluntary carpentry and rearranging of the book shelves up at the Swap Shop. BS will thank him for his efforts with a letter in the Cape Courier on behalf of the Committee.

This was the last meeting for Peter Frye and Bill Schmitz. KL wanted the minutes to reflect the Committee’s appreciation for their years of service and contributions while serving on the Committee.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Thursday, January 5, 2017. There will be no meeting in December.

### **Citizen Opportunity for Discussion of Items on the Agenda**

There was no public comment

### **The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 PM**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Robert C. Malley

