

**Town of Cape Elizabeth
Recycling Committee**

Meeting Minutes
January 5, 2017

Present: Kara Lavender Law (KL), Aubrey Miller (AM), Tracy Floyd (TF) and Matthew Faulkner (MF)

Absent: Jennifer MacDonald (JM)

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

Public: Peter Frye, (resident) of 28 Southwell Road and a former member of the Committee

Call to Order: As the Committee member with the most tenure, Kara Lavender Law called the meeting to order @ 7:00 PM.

Meeting Minutes

The November 3, 2016 meeting minutes were approved as written (4 Yes, 0 No)

Committee Appointments Update

RM informed the Committee members that they would be starting out the year with 5 members. The Town Council Appointments Committee did not have enough interested candidates to fill the two vacancies. RM suggested that if anyone knows of interested candidates wishing to serve on the Committee they should contact Debra Lane, the Town Clerk. RM added that the Recycling Committee plays an important role in the community's commitment to recycling and it has been a tremendous help to him during his tenure.

Citizen Opportunity for Public Comment Not On the Agenda

Peter Frye expressed his desire to help out MF with building a recycling cabinet for the MS cafeteria even though he is no longer a member of the committee. He also brought some much-appreciated desserts for the group to enjoy!

Election of Committee Chair for 2017

Kara Lavender Law was unanimously elected chair of the Committee for 2017 (4 Yes, 0 No)

Review Role of Committee

RM gave an overview of the role and charge of the Committee. KL asked about creating goals and RM stated that the Town Council has requested goals be submitted from each standing board and committee. RM suggested that the Committee develop some draft goals and formalize them at the next meeting.

Meeting Dates for 2017

The following meeting schedule was agreed to:

Feb

Mar

April

May – Participation at HHW/E-Waste Collection Day

June – Participation at the Cape Farm Alliance Strawberry Festival

July – No Meeting

August

September

October – No Meeting

November

December – No Meeting

Committee Member Updates & Correspondence

MF reported that he went to the Middle School cafeteria to observe recycling practices. He spoke with the lead custodian (Donny Darling) about how they handled and transported recyclables to the containers outside. He reported that they are putting the recyclables in clear plastic bags, which ecomaine is accepting for the time being. He also reported there are some challenges internally with the sorting program. He contacted Troiano Waste (the Town's current hauler) and ecomaine to discuss transportation options for the MS school. There was a general discussion about separation and recycling practices in the schools by the custodial staff. MF suggested it might be helpful if committee members could help educate students in the cafeteria during lunch times.

RM suggested committee members might want to visit nearby schools, such as Scarborough to see how they handle separation and recycling in their respective cafeterias. TF offered to contact Waynflete School in Portland.

Council Action on Proposed Retail Packaging Ordinance

The proposed ordinance was on the agenda of the December 12th meeting of the Town Council. RM attended the meeting along with AM and JM. After a brief discussion and some questions by the Councilors, they voted to forward the proposal on to the Town Council's Ordinance Committee for further consideration. The next meeting of the Ordinance Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17, 2017 @ 12:00 PM at the Town Hall. The proposal is listed on the agenda, but no comprehensive discussion is planned, according to RM. RM suggested it might be helpful for the Chair (or other Committee members) to be present.

Education & Outreach

TF offered to draft an article about ecomaine's recent prohibition on plastic bags in the single-stream recycling program. There was brief discussion about ecomaine's public service announcement related to Holiday recycling of wrapping paper. The Committee thought it was helpful and informative. TF offered to draft an article about the topic for next December's Cape Courier.

MF reported that ecomaine's Environmental Educator (Katrina Vanhuizen) is available to come speak in the schools.

KL suggested the Committee volunteer at the Swap Shop for a day in the spring as they have done in the past. RM again stated his appreciation for the efforts of the Swap Shop volunteers and said that it would be good for the Committee to introduce themselves to them.

Other Business

MF offered to contact with the School's Curriculum Director about recycling education.

Citizen Opportunity for Discussion of Items on the Agenda

There was no public comment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Thursday, February 2, 2017.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert C. Malley

