

**Town of Cape Elizabeth
Recycling Committee**

Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2017

Present: Kara Lavender Law (KL), Chair, Aubrey Miller (AM), Jennifer MacDonald (JM) and Matthew Faulkner (MF)

Absent: Tracy Floyd (TF)

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

Public: None present

Call to Order: Kara Lavender Law, Chair, called the meeting to order @ 7:00 PM.

Citizen Opportunity for Public Comment Not On the Agenda

No members of the public were present.

Meeting Minutes

The January 5, 2017 meeting minutes were approved with some minor edits (4 Yes, 0 No)

Discussion & Development of Committee Goals for 2017

RM reiterated that the Town Council (TC) has requested each standing board and committee develop annual goals and submit them to the TC. He suggested that they be attainable and reasonable in number. After a general discussion the committee drafted the following goals for consideration:

1. Continue to work with the Town Council on the proposed fee on single use bags and ban on polystyrene foam packaging in the community.
2. Work more closely with the schools to enhance their current recycling program and potentially develop curriculum about waste and recycling.
3. Continue outreach and education efforts in the community.
4. Participate in the annual Strawberry Festival.
5. Help out at the Swap Shop to show support for the volunteers.

Other ideas suggested as part of the goal development process were considering a ban on plastic straws, enhance recycling in the schools by adding items that are not currently being accepted at ecomaine (such as a TerraCycle program), promoting composting and beach cleanups. RM suggested that the Cooperative Extension Service could be contacted to possibly host a composting workshop as part of the Community Services educational program. KL said she would check into this and follow up with Russell Packett, the Community Services Director.

There was also a discussion about the best media source to use to get messaging out to the community; such as a blog, the website and/or the Cape Courier.

Council Action on Proposed Retail Packaging Ordinance

The proposed ordinance was on the January 17th meeting agenda of the Town Council Ordinance Committee. KL and MF attended the meeting. No substantive discussion was held on the proposal given the number of items on the agenda. RM will check with the Town Planner and let the committee know when the Ordinance Committee will be taking up the proposal again. RM suggested that the committee develop talking points in preparation of that meeting.

KL reported on two bills being proposed in the State Legislature. They are related to phasing out single-use plastic bags and polystyrene in disposable food containers.

Committee Member Updates & Correspondence

KL and MF met briefly with the Director Teacher and Learning after attending the Town Council Ordinance Committee meeting. They have set up a meeting with her for February 7th @ 1:00 PM.

RM forwarded an email dated 2/2/17 to KL that he received from Theresa Curran, who is the Asst. Principal at the Pond Cove School. She had questions about acceptable items for recycling that are part of the school lunch program. KL responded to her query, which involved pre-packaged items along with milk containers and juice boxes, and offered the help of the committee in prompting recycling in the school.

MF relayed issues that the Middle School janitorial staff is having with handling, packaging and dumping recyclables. Changes will need to be made to their program as a result of ecomaine's ban on plastic bags, which is what their recyclables are placed in.

Education & Outreach

TF's article was accepted by the Cape Courier, which was edited by KL to meet the word-count threshold. The article explains ecomaine's recent prohibition on plastic bags.

There was a general discussion about subjects for future Courier articles. There was a suggestion by KL to write an article on how residents can deal with the plastic bag ban in the home, since many residents place plastic bags full of recyclables in the "silver bullets". It was also agreed to follow that up with an article of how (and where) to recycle plastic film.

There was a discussion about purchasing some "Chico" Bags, which are compact reusable bags. RM said that there was a need to replenish the inventory of promotional items and that the Town could purchase some for distribution at outreach events.

Other Business

Recycling Center Upgrade Project is being advertised for bid. The bid opening is on Thursday, March 9th and it is planned to start work during the week of April 10th.

RM reported that the recycling rate for December was 37% according to ecomaine. Excellent results for the community, with OCC most likely contributing to that success.

TC is seeking applicants to fill the two vacancies on the committee. Deadline to submit an application is February 21st.

KL suggested that the committee could help out in the Pond Cove/Middle School cafeteria to help educate the students on separating their waste (recycling, compost, trash).

Citizen Opportunity for Discussion of Items on the Agenda

There was no public comment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 PM

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert C. Malley