

**Town of Cape Elizabeth
Recycling Committee**

Meeting Minutes
June 1, 2017

Present: Chair, Jennifer MacDonald (JM), Matthew Faulkner (MF), Tim Trachimowicz (TT) and Tracy Floyd (TF)

Absent: Kara Lavender Law (KL), Aubrey Miller (AM) and Chelsea Torrey (CT)

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

Public: None present

Call to Order: Jennifer MacDonald (JM), Acting Chair, called the meeting to order @ 7:02 PM.

Citizen Opportunity for Public Comment Not On the Agenda

No members of the public were present.

Meeting Minutes

The April 6, 2017 meeting minutes were approved as written (4 Yes, 0 No).

Committee Member Updates & Correspondence

JM & AM met with members of the High School Environmental Club. There is a need to meet again when they have more of their members present. TT asked if they do a Fall kickoff meeting at the start of the school year and thought that the Committee should engage with them at that point.

MF reported that he has not heard back from the Middle School about assistance they might need in the cafeteria to facilitate internal recycling. He did attend a meeting that included several school administrators, but there needs to be follow up on this in the future.

There was a general discussion about the amount of plastic bags still going into the “silver bullets” despite a Courier articles and a prohibition at ecomaine. More messaging needs to be done and it was felt a notice or insert in the Cape Courier near the completion of the RC Upgrade Project would be a good way to get that out to the citizens.

TF asked who would update the Recycling web page. RM suggested one of the members could work with our webmaster, Wendy Derzawiec to perform any updates needed.

Update on Review of Proposed PSFoam and Bag Ordinances by Town Council

The Ordinance Committee is in the process of scheduling a first review of the proposed ordinances for July. RM will notify the Committee when that date is confirmed.

Update on Outreach and Collaboration with Cape Elizabeth Schools

JM asked about meeting with the custodial staff before the start of the next school year to get feedback on how to handle the collection and transfer of recyclables in the school to the outside containers. RM reported that Greg Marles, the Facilities Manager has recently left his position and that it would be better to work with a new appointee before the start of school in the Fall.

Update on Strawberry Festival Planning

The event is scheduled for Saturday, June 24th from 10 to 3. There was a discussion about scheduling shifts for the members who could attend the event. RM offered the DPW’s pop-up tent, a table, chairs an easel for their use that day.

TF distributed a draft of a survey that he will perform with willing participants. The newly purchased “Chico” bags will be distributed as promotional gifts for those who perform the survey.

JM reported that AM is working on a recycling “sorting” game for the event. JM to work with her to finalize the details on it.

Education & Outreach

JM gave an update on the home composting workshop that was put on by Mark King on May 10th at the Community Center. It was very informative and well done. JM will send out the video presentation to the Committee for those who could not attend.

Other Business

RM reported that the group known as the “Swap Shop Volunteers” was recognized as “Volunteer of the Year” by the Maine Resource Recovery Association at their annual conference in Rockland on April 24th.

The annual paper shredding event is scheduled for Saturday, June 3rd. The event is always scheduled on the first Saturday in June of each year.

The Recycling Center Upgrade Project is proceeding on schedule. A temporary traffic disposal pattern was instituted on May 17th. Its working better after signage directing users to the household refuse containers was modified. The final completion date is scheduled for the first of August.

22 orders for the “Earth Machine” composting bins were taken as part the annual program sponsored by the Maine Resource Recovery Association.

RM reported that Missi Labbe from ecomaine contacted him about a noticeable decline in the Town’s MSW tonnage being shipped over to them. She inquired if the Town was doing something different or diverting tonnage. RM said it may be a combination of a reduction in overall waste generation in the community, increased food-waste recycling services being offered by the private sector, or more residents taking advantage of commercial hauler services. For whatever reason, it was positive news.

Citizen Opportunity for Discussion of Items on the Agenda

There was no public comment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Thursday, August 3, 2017.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert Malley, Director of Public Works