

Town of Cape Elizabeth
Recycling Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 7, 2017

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

Absent: Tracy Floyd (TF) and Tim Trachimowicz (TT)

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

Public: Maren Miller

Call to Order: Kara Lavender Law (KL) Chair, called the meeting to order @ 7:04 PM.

Approval of August 3, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The August 3, 2017 meeting minutes were approved as written (4 Yes, 0 No)

Citizen Opportunity for Public Comment Not On the Agenda

No members of the public spoke

Committee Member Updates & Correspondence

KL thought that the visit last month at the August 3rd RC meeting by Dr. Travis Wagner and Lisa Wolff was helpful. She reported that they are committed to helping the Committee if needed.

Update on the Recycling Center Upgrade Project

RM provided an update on the project, which was made operational on July 28th. There have been many positive comments from the public. The containers require frequent cycling depending on the amount of material deposited by users. Observations to date:

- There are still many plastic bags getting placed in with other single-stream recyclables. This has been identified as a problem for the recycling conveyance systems at ecomaine.
- Some users are transiting the lanes too fast. The Police Dept. has been on site sporadically to monitor speeds and raise awareness of drivers.
- There has been impatience exhibited by some drivers who don't want to wait for a container to be cycled, which takes approximately 2 minutes.
- The cycling switches on the containers are going to be re-programmed so the containers can be cycled automatically without having to apply constant pressure on the switch. The compactor doors will have magnet contacts so the compactor will stop automatically if the "doghouse" doors are opened.
- Stormwater is sheet flowing into the leachate drains under compactor units #4 and #5. RM is working with the consulting engineers for the project to mitigate the problem.

Update on Retail Packaging Ordinances

KL thought the Ordinance Committee meetings went well and that the dialogue with the TC members was productive. The body of the language proposed by the Committee has stayed mostly intact. There were changes recommended on reporting and foam packaging for meat products sold by local markets. KL responded to questions from a reporter for the Sentry newspaper. MF suggested stressing the theme that users can still purchase bags, but that the overall population is not subsidizing the purchase of bags for all users. The proposal will be considered at the September Town Council meeting, which is scheduled for Monday, September 11th @ 7:00 PM. It is anticipated that it will be scheduled for a workshop on a date TBD by the Town Council.

Education & Outreach – Food Waste Collection & Plastic Bag Disposal

There was a general discussion about a significant amount of plastic bags being observed in the single-stream recycling waste stream. RM had conveyed this to Matt Sturgis who in turn spoke to Kevin Roche at **ecomaine**. Kevin told Matt that he did not see the bags as one of their top five contaminants in the single-stream program, despite hearing from **ecomaine** through channels that they were a problem for the conveyance systems at the sorting facility.

KL led a discussion about the proposed food-waste collection program at the Recycling Center. RM said it would be important to get the messaging and rules out to the public in advance of placing the bins out for use. There was a general discussion about the color of the bins, signage and the methodology to get the message out (Courier article/insert). An insert could be used to provide other information, such as “do’s and don’ts” of recycling, hours of operation, etc. CT offered to draft some language for the insert and share it with the Committee.

Outreach & Collaboration with Cape Elizabeth Schools

KL reported that there have been several changes in the top administration at the MS/PC school in the last few months. RM received an email from the new Asst. Principal at the Pond Cove Elementary (Sarah Forrey-Pettit) asking for assistance to teach students about the recycling and composting process. The email was forwarded to KL who in turn contacted Sarah. KL polled the members present and asked for assistance with a visit to the schools during the week of September 11th. MF, JM, & CT all offered to help. KL will work on scheduling. There was a brief discussion about purchasing tee shirts (or some other garment) to identify the members as being on the Recycling Committee. RM said that there are funds available for the purchase of those types of items.

KL plans to reach out to the Environmental Club at the High School.

KL suggested inviting the new Facilities Manager (Perry Schwarz) to the October meeting. RM will reach out to him and see if he can attend.

KL will ask TT to report on the CLYNK Recognition Program at the next meeting.

MF asked if the Committee should reach out to the parents to help out at the schools. KL plans to attend the next meeting of the PCPA (Pond Cove Parents Association) and will inquire about that. AM asked if students from the High School could help out in the schools. KL suggested it might be a good assignment for the Environmental Club.

Other Business

KL polled the members present if they wanted to do any outreach in conjunction with Maine Recycles Week, which is November 13th-19th. One option discussed was handing out information at the Recycling Center on Saturday, November 18th.

The Recycling Center brochure was last updated in 2013 with assistance from a local resident. RM has contacted her about helping out again with an update of the brochure. He will also ask her about assisting with the proposed insert in the Cape Courier.

It should be noted that it was a pleasure to have 2-week old Maren Miller accompany her mother (AM) to this meeting. AM gets extra credit for attending the meeting given the demands of caring for a newborn child!

Citizen Opportunity for Discussion of Items on the Agenda

There was no public comment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Thursday, October 5, 2017.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert Malley, Director of Public Works

