

**Town of Cape Elizabeth**  
**Recycling Committee**  
Meeting Minutes  
April 5, 2018

**Present:** Chair, Kara Lavender Law (KL), Matthew Faulkner (MF), Chelsea Torrey (CT), Tim Trachimowicz (TT), Jennifer MacDonald (JM), and Nicole Boucher (NB)

**Absent:** Aubrey Miller (AM)

**Staff:** Robert Malley, Director of Public Works

**Public/Guests:** None present

**Call to Order:** Kara Lavender Law (KL) Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

**Approval of March 1, 2018 Draft Meeting Minutes**

The minutes were approved (5 Yes, 0 No)

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

**Update on March 23<sup>rd</sup> Ordinance Committee Workshop**

KL, AM and MF attended the Ordinance Committee meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Two former members of the Alternative Energy Committee (AEC) also attended. There was no consensus to incorporate a renewable energy component to the Recycling Committee's charge at the meeting. There was some discussion about the size, scope, and staff needs of a Sustainability Committee if the concept was to move forward. MF reported that the members of the AEC present stated that there were recommendations that came out of report that were worthy of future discussion.

**Update on Recycling Center Food Waste Collection - Bob**

RM reported that he is still targeting May 1<sup>st</sup> for the placement of the food-waste bins at the Recycling Center. A bin will be placed in front of each single-stream compactor. The bins will be serviced weekly (or as needed) by We Compost It! An insert in the Cape Courier is planned for the middle of May.

**Update on May Food Waste/Composting Outreach Activities**

There was a general discussion about scheduling shifts for the Committee's presence at the HHW Collection on May 12<sup>th</sup>. The Committee will be handing out kitchen compost pails provided by ecomaine, and other promotional items. They will also be assisting Public Works staff with the annual HHW survey project that is part of the Town's Stormwater Awareness Plan.

KL reported that the Composting Class scheduled for May 9<sup>th</sup> is listed in the Community Services program bulletin (Cape Explorer). Mark King will be the instructor.

AM reported to KL (via email) that the "Just Eat It" film will be shown at the TML on Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Ryan Parker is no longer at the NRCM, so Todd Martin will be facilitating the discussion after the film.

**Update on ecomaine School Recycling Grant**

KL reported that ecomaine contacted her about a reporting requirement for the ecomaine grant that was awarded to the Town on November 21, 2017 towards the purchase of recycling, compost and trash bins for the PC/MS cafeteria. It was unclear who received the official notification but the Committee was unaware of the award. KL

has contacted Perry Schwarz (Facilities Manager) about the grant and will report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

### **Follow-Up Discussion of Collaboration & Outreach with Schools**

MF reported that new educational signs have been installed over the food-waste bins at the PC/MS cafeteria.

KL received an email from Kathy Stankard (Director of Teaching & Learning at the PC School) related to starting recycling education at the kindergarten level.

KL had previously suggested starting a “Green Team” in the school system. She asked JM to share her experience with a similar venture at her employment. JM reported the employer engages the employees through “lunch & learn” events and other educational opportunities during the workday.

TT contacted Jason Manjourides (Pond Cove Principal) offering assistance with programming the proposed improvements to the PC/MS cafeteria. MF asked RM how to best engage in this discussion. RM suggested contacting the Facilities Manager and working through him if the project ultimately moves forward.

### **Update on Retail Packaging Ordinance Outreach and Communication**

RM reported that Matt Sturgis contacted the manager at the IGA store about their use of foam packaging. The manager informed Matt that they have ordered new packaging that will be utilized once they use up their current inventory.

KL suggested a letter be mailed out to all of the affected businesses as a both a reminder and to solicit feedback on any changes in behavioral purchasing practices they have seen. KL will reach out to the Town Manager regarding this.

### **Discussion of Recycling Committee Webpage & Communication Materials**

NB reported she has been developing Facebook informational posts and articles for the web page. It is hoped that the Cape Courier will pick up on these also. KL suggested contacting the editor of the Cape Courier. There was a general discussion about the information listed on the Recycling section of the web site. NB offered to review and offer some suggestions to improve. These will be shared with the rest of the Committee for discussion at a future meeting.

### **Strawberry Festival Planning**

The 2018 Strawberry Festival will be held on June 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>. The application is due on May 1<sup>st</sup>. AM offered (via a previous email) to contact the event coordinator for the event about getting space.

There was a general discussion about activities the Committee could host at the event. Last year there was a quiz and a sorting game. Promotional items were also handed out. RM suggested taking an inventory of the remaining items.

KL suggested a food-waste promotion. CT will look into the possibility of a “strawberry-related” book that could be handed out.

### **Committee Member Updates & Correspondence**

KL reported that the ecomaine luncheon and awards ceremony was well received.

AM had suggested at the event that the Committee should consider sponsoring a local business and nominate them for an award next year.

NB contacted the webmaster (Wendy Derzawiec) about obtaining emails for group messaging.

### **Other Business**

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

There was no public comment

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:18PM**

The next meeting/gathering of the Committee will be held at the HHW/E-Waste Collection on Saturday, May 12, 2018

Respectfully Submitted,  
Robert C. Malley