

Town of Cape Elizabeth
Recycling Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 5, 2019

Present: Chair, Matthew Faulkner (MF), Nicole Boucher (NB), Aubrey Miller (AM), Kara Lavender Law (KL), and Tim Trachimowicz (TT)

Absent: Jennifer MacDonald (JM) & Chelsea Torrey (CT)

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

Public/Guests: Perry Schwarz (Cape Elizabeth Facilities & Transportation Director)

Call to Order: Matthew Faulkner (MF) called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Approval of August 1, 2019 Draft Meeting Minutes

Following a suggestion by Aubrey Miller, “Fort Williams” was added before the word “Park” under the Recycling Center Update. The minutes were approved (5 Yes, 0 No)

Citizen Opportunity for Public Comment Not On the Agenda

No members of the public were present

School Campus Recycling Discussion – Perry Schwarz, Facilities Director

MF opened the discussion and thanked Perry for coming to the meeting. The Committee is interested in recycling logistics in the schools and was looking for any update on internal efforts and/or challenges following a meeting with a former member of the janitorial staff earlier this year.

Perry mentioned that his department is dealing with a number of challenges this year; including staffing vacancies and work-related injuries that are hampering his efforts to address recycling inefficiencies in the schools.

He stated he would like to see greater support from the school administration, with whom he is meeting on September 10th.

KL suggested reducing the recycling effort to just paper which is probably the most common recyclable item generated on the campus.

There was a general discussion about the transfer of recyclables from the classrooms/cafeteria to the outside containers. This included a discussion about having adequate receptacles in classrooms for recyclables.

RM suggested inviting the Superintendent of Schools (Donna Wolfrom) to a future meeting to discuss the above referenced topics. KL thought there should be some incentives for the school to increase their recycling efforts. There was a general discussion about potential facility improvements to the schools that the School Board and Town Council will discuss later this year.

Follow-Up Discussion on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

KL reported that she reached out to a colleague from Yale University who relayed back to her via email that it is a complex issue. AM inquired if the National Resources Council of Maine was involved in this endeavor. It was noted that Maine is out in front of this issue, with the prohibition on polystyrene foam containers and non-reusable plastic bags. Those members present agreed to monitor the efforts of those involved working on the development of EPR policies.

Strawberry Festival – Final Thoughts

AM had volunteered to reach out to the event organizer to get any additional feedback on the event. She has since left a message with Imogene Altnauer but has not heard back from her as of yet.

Webpage & Social Media Communication Update – Nicole Boucher

NB reported she has heard back from 5 businesses regarding recycling efforts they are undertaking within their businesses. She has also been thinking about ways to incorporate social media into the update of the existing Recycling Center brochure.

Review of 2019 Committee Goals

MF thought it would be helpful to review the status of the goals recommended by the Committee and approved by the Town Council in May of this year (attached to minutes). It was noted above that NB is starting to work on the brochure that was last updated in 2013. There was a general discussion about potential content. TT and MF offered to help out the update.

TT will be reaching out to the environmental club at the high school. RM suggested inviting them to a future meeting of the Committee to recognize their efforts on promoting silverware use (to replace single-use plastic utensils) in the cafeteria.

MF offered to reach out to Bruce Rayner (organizer of the Plogging Weeks) to see if he needed help with promoting the event which is scheduled for October)

KL wondered if there was value in organizing a coastal cleanup event. RM reported that the Middle School Physical Education teacher (Andy Strout) organizes a beach cleanup each spring. He also stated that much of the easterly shoreline that attracts derelict fishing gear is privately owned and difficult to access.

Recycling Center Update – Bob Malley

RM stated there was nothing significant to report.

Committee Member Updates & Correspondence

There were no updates or correspondence reported by any of the members present.

Other Business

There was no other business discussed

Citizens Opportunity for Discussion of Items on the Agenda

There were no members of the public present.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Thursday, October 10, 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert C. Malley
Director of Public Works