

**Town of Cape Elizabeth
Recycling Committee**

Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2017

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

Absent: none

Staff: Robert Malley, Director of Public Works (RM) was not present

Public: None present

Call to Order: Kara Lavender Law, Chair, called the meeting to order @ 7:03 PM.

Citizen Opportunity for Public Comment Not On the Agenda

No members of the public were present.

Meeting Minutes

The February 2, 2017 meeting minutes were approved (5 Yes, 0 No).

Committee Member Updates & Correspondence

MF and TF have set up a meeting with Rob Kierstead of Waynflete School to discuss collection and handling of recyclables for March 9th @ 1:00 PM. MF has reached out to staff at Scarborough schools, South Portland schools and Bates College to arrange similar visits, but has not yet received responses. MF visited Portland High School and Univ. Southern Maine to observe recycling collection, both of which use plastic bag-lined barrels. MF also reported on research into methods to transport recyclables collected in barrels into dumpsters. KL reported on a February 7, 2017 meeting with Cathy Stankard, Director of Teaching and Learning at Cape Elizabeth School Department. Ms. Stankard subsequently shared with school administrators the Committee's offer to help with proper lunch waste sorting in the cafeterias. As a result KL arranged with Middle School principal Mike Tracy for Committee members to attend the middle school staff meeting on April 10 @ 2:40pm, and she is awaiting a response from Pond Cove principal Kelly Hasson about attending a Pond Cove staff meeting. High school principal Jeff Shedd confirmed that the Committee should contact teacher Lauren Tarantino of the high school Environmental Club.

KL inquired with Community Services about offering a Home Composting 101 course, and is in the process of setting up a 1.5-hour course for May 10, which will be advertised in the upcoming Spring/Summer brochure. KL emailed Andy Strout to inquire about beach cleanups he organizes with middle school students and to offer the Committee's support. Mr. Strout will forward the offer to the 8th grade team leaders.

Finalization of Committee Goals for 2017

KL presented a draft document of Committee Goals for 2017. With minor edits the goals were approved (5 Yes, 0 No) and are included as a supplemental document to the meeting minutes.

Update on Review of Proposed Retail Packaging Ordinances by Town Council

KL reported that the February meeting of the Ordinance Committee was cancelled, so there are no updates to report.

Update on Compact Reusable Bag Order

AM reported that an order is ready to be placed with Chico Bags for 250 blue bags with the Cape Recycles logo, at a cost of \$4.75 per bag plus shipping. She requested delivery by mid-May.

Education & Outreach

AM and JM reported that the Cape Courier articles should be either 250 or 500 words in length, and the submission deadline is the same as that for advertisements. TF reported that his article on ecomaine's new plastic bag policy has been submitted, but he has not received word on a publication date. JM is preparing a follow-up article on how to collect and transport recyclables to the Silver Bullets without adding plastic bags to the single-stream collection, and AM is preparing a second follow-up article on where you can recycle plastic bags.

AM reported the date of the Strawberry Festival (June 24) and the committee discussed how the Chico bags could be distributed, settling on participation in a very short, verbal "quiz" about plastic bags, which will reinforce the information presented in the series of 3 Cape Courier articles. TF will design the quiz, AM will reach out to Strawberry Festival organizers with our request to have a table at the event, and KL will coordinate with RM about the pop-up tent, a table, and materials to distribute.

KL will continue to correspond with middle school teachers about support for their September beach cleanup, and will research other groups that might be regularly cleaning Cape Elizabeth beaches. MF suggested the Committee could also organize a spring cleanup of school grounds.

Other Business

KL reported that the recycling rate for January was 36% according to ecomaine.

AM and MF suggested the need for additional Committee meetings in 2017. KL will discuss with RM the possibility of adding meetings on June 1 and October 5, 2017.

Citizen Opportunity for Discussion of Items on the Agenda

There was no public comment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 PM

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Thursday, April 6, 2017.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kara Lavender Law