

**Town of Cape Elizabeth
Recycling Committee**

Meeting Minutes
August 3, 2017

Present: Chair, Kara Lavender Law (KL), Aubrey Miller (AM), Tim Trachimowicz (TT) and Chelsea Torrey (CT)

Absent: Tracy Floyd (TF), Matthew Faulkner, (MF) and Jennifer MacDonald (JM)

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

Public: None present

Call to Order: Kara Lavender Law (KL) Chair, called the meeting to order @ 7:00 PM.

Citizen Opportunity for Public Comment Not On the Agenda

No members of the public were present.

Approval of June 1, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The June 1, 2017 meeting minutes were approved as written (4 Yes, 0 No)

Food Waste Collection – Dr. Travis Wagner & Lisa Wolff of ecomaine

KL introduced Dr. Wagner and Lisa Wolff. They gave an overview of two pilot food waste curbside collection programs currently underway in both South Portland and Scarborough. The South Portland program consists of 560 households that have been provided 6 gal. pails that are collected weekly by Garbage to Garden. In the Scarborough program, they have provided wheeled totes to 260 households that are collected every other week by the current contracted hauler. The dumping of the food waste totes is alternated with regular trash, which has received some negative feedback from some of the residents. There was a general discussion about the outreach efforts in the pilot communities. The program is being tracked and shows an increase in the amount of food waste being dropped off at the three designated town locations in Scarborough (?) since the program was implemented in May of 2017. Lisa also provided an overview of the food waste program at ecomaine and also gave a report of their outreach efforts.

KL asked about any food-waste collection plans for the Recycling Center. RM stated that totes were planned and will be located in front of the recycling compactors. A proposal has been received from the vendor currently servicing the food-waste totes at the schools and Community Services. He suggested that it be coordinated with an education program, i.e., an article in the Cape Courier or an insert that explains the new service. RM said that the totes would need to be clearly signed to list acceptable and non-acceptable items. After a brief discussion, KL suggested the discussion be tabled for the time being and discussed at a future meeting (September) to better plan outreach efforts needed and an implementation date. RM suggested the Committee shoot for an October 1st start date.

Committee Member Updates & Correspondence

There were no updates or correspondence to report by the members present.

Debrief of Strawberry Festival Outreach Event

KL thanked everyone who helped out and thought it was a productive outreach event for the Committee. There was a consensus of those present to participate in next year's event. Promotional items, such as Frisbees were quite popular with the kids, and reusable shopping bags were popular with the adults.

Update on the Recycling Center Upgrade Project

RM provided an update on the project. An informal “dedication” was held just prior to the meeting that included members of the Town Council, the Recycling Committee and the Solid Waste & Recycling Long Range Planning Committee. Former Town Manager Mike McGovern attended along with Randy Tome and Megan McDevitt from the firm of Woodard & Curran. The project is substantially complete, but there are some remaining items to be done, such as the installation of the safety railing along the retaining wall, the residing (and painting) of the former compactor building and some miscellaneous items. Feedback from residents has been positive about the new layout and the “Blue” recycling compactors.

Update on Ordinance Committee Meeting, Retail Packaging Ordinances

KL thought the meeting went well and was pleased with the Committee’s preparedness for the meeting. RM echoed the praise and explained the next steps that the Ordinance Committee could potentially take, such as a recommendation to the full Town Council for consideration and possibly setting the proposal to a public hearing. The proposal will be discussed at the next meeting of the Ordinance Committee meeting, which is scheduled for Tuesday, August 8th @ 12:00 PM.

Planning for Next Outreach & Collaboration with Cape Elizabeth Schools

Vacancies at the administration level in the MS/PC school are posing a current challenge to increasing recycling awareness there. RM reported that Perry Shwarz is the new Facilities Manager, replacing Greg Marles. He suggested that he be invited to a future meeting of the Committee (October?) to meet the Committee members and discuss the handling of recyclables in the schools. RM reported they are still putting plastic bags in the recycling dumpster and that he noticed contaminants inside one of them on a recent inspection.

There was a brief discussion about the HS Environmental Club and a current CLYNK recognition program. TT offered to check on CLYNK and KL will reach out to the Environmental Club and report back to the Committee next month.

Education & Outreach

There was a general discussion about how to effectively message the plastic bag prohibition in the single stream recycling program. This also included a discussion about the separation and marketing of recyclables.

Other Business

None

Citizen Opportunity for Discussion of Items on the Agenda

There was no public comment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 PM

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Thursday, September 7, 2017.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert Malley, Director of Public Works

DRAFT