

Town of Cape Elizabeth
Recycling Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 5, 2017

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

Absent: Jennifer MacDonald (JM), Chelsea Torrey (CT) and Tracy Floyd (TF)

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.

Approval of September 5, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The September 5, 2017 meeting minutes were approved after a minor amendment (4 Yes, 0 No)

Citizen Opportunity for Public Comment Not On the Agenda

No members of the public were present

Visit from Perry Schwarz, CE School Facilities & Transportation Director

KL thanked Perry for coming to the meeting and provided an overview of the Committee's charge. She explained current outreach efforts with the schools, including recent initiatives in the MS/PC cafeteria. RM stated that there are logistical problems with getting recyclables from the classroom to the actual containers outside. The material is placed in bags which are no longer acceptable in the single-stream program. Perry asked if any outreach had been done with the teaching staff. MF reported that he did meet with the Curriculum Director and she seemed receptive to working with the Committee.

KL stated that she would like to see a "Green Team" created in the school organization that would help with recycling education and initiatives in the schools.

There was a general discussion about the containers used in the cafeteria and how they could be better identified with symbols to help the students differentiate which items should go in them. This led to a discussion about next steps and how best to proceed.

Perry offered to look into getting on a future agenda of a school administrators meeting to explain the need for improvements to the current recycling program.

MF and TT offered to work on container identification.

The session concluded with more discussion about logistics and the challenges with getting recyclables into the containers currently being used. Perry suggested that a compactor unit at each school may be a better option, which would be easier to access.

Outreach & Collaboration with Cape Elizabeth Schools

KL gave an update on efforts in the MS/PC cafeteria. They are still using Styrofoam bowls for soups, which will be an issue if the proposed foam packaging ordinance gets approved.

KL asked RM if We Compost It! could pick up the food waste containers on Friday afternoon. The cafeteria uses paper trays on Fridays and they end up sitting in containers (inside the building) over the weekend. RM will check into that.

KL spoke to the Asst. Principal of the PC school about attending a future meeting of the Committee. She also reported that ecomaine, CEEF, PCPA and even NOAA might have grant funding available for recycling-related initiatives.

AM suggested that High School students might be available to come to the Town Council meeting when the proposed plastic bag/foam packaging ordinance is considered.

TT excused himself from the meeting @ 8:00 PM and stated he would be unable to attend the November meeting of the Committee.

Committee Member Updates & Correspondence

KL shared some apparel information that she received from JM. It was suggested that the Committee purchase tee-shirts or outerwear to be better identified at outreach events and/or in the schools. RM reported that he has ordered reflective safety vests that have the words "Recycling Committee" on the back of them.

Update on Retail Packaging Ordinance by the TC

KL reported on the recent meetings of both the Town Council Ordinance Committee and the full Town Council (TC) at their September 11th meeting. There were concerns expressed about the definition of a "food establishment" and how it applied to farm stands. There was also a suggestion from a member of the TC that the ordinance should apply to all retail establishments and not just those selling food items.

KL also shared the correspondence she had with Mr. Jay Cox, a resident of 1148 Sawyer Road regarding his thoughts on the proposed ordinance.

The Town Council will consider the request again at the October 11th meeting. The Committee will continue to poll local retail businesses as the TC had suggested and report their findings at that meeting.

Education & Outreach: Draft Food Waste Collection Insert

KL shared a draft of the Cape Courier insert that she received from CT. The members present offered suggested edits. KL will incorporate those into a final draft and send to RM for printing.

Outreach for Maine Recycles Week

Maine Recycles Week is November 13th – 19th. KL stated that there was not much to report but stated that the Committee still plans to be up at the Recycling Center on Saturday, November 18th to engage residents and hand out promotional items.

Recycling Committee Website

KL had received suggested text from the webmaster sent by a resident for possible inclusion on the website. RM suggested that the entire Recycling section should be comprehensively reviewed. KL suggested that it would be a good goal for the Committee to pursue in 2018.

Other Business

There was a discussion about adding signage behind Town Hall in the area of the "Silver Bullets" to better explain what is acceptable to be placed into them. Some signage was provided by ecomaine to RM that could be affixed to a metal sign. It would match that which is on the "Blue" stationary compactors up at the Recycling Center. RM will follow up on that.

There was a short discussion about the current terms of members. The TC will commence the appointments process this month.

On behalf of Maureen O'Meara, the Town Planner, RM thanked KL for her recent efforts on the proposed Retail Packaging Ordinance.

RM stated that he will be away and unable to attend the November meeting of the Committee.

Citizen Opportunity for Discussion of Items on the Agenda

There was no public comment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Thursday, November 2, 2017.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert Malley, Director of Public Works

DRAFT