

Town of Cape Elizabeth
Recycling Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 9, 2018

Present: Chair, Kara Lavender Law (KL), Matthew Faulkner (MF), Chelsea Torrey (CT), Jennifer MacDonald (JM), Aubrey Miller (AM), and Nicole Boucher (NB)

Absent: Tim Trachimowicz (TT)

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

Public/Guests: None present

Call to Order: Kara Lavender Law (KL) Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Approval of June 7, 2018 Draft Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved (6 Yes, 0 No)

Citizen Opportunity for Public Comment Not On the Agenda

Recap of Strawberry Festival

KL reported that event was well attended and went very well for the Committee. The members present felt it gave the Committee good community exposure and that it was a positive event to be a part of. KL reported that the event organizer (Imogene Altnauer) was appreciative of the outreach to her and encouraged the Committee to contact her early in the planning for the 2019 event. There was a general discussion about the activities during the day and promotional items handed out by the Committee.

Recycling Center Update, including Food Waste Collection

RM reported that the heat wave for the last few weeks has been challenging for the staff. The portable traffic calming devices for the Recycling Center lanes has been ordered and will be put in place after an announcement in the Cape Courier and on social media. The devices are portable speed bumps that will be staggered in each lane in attempt to slow vehicles down. The food waste drop-off bins are popular with residents and are being serviced 2x/week. There are three bins in front of each single-stream compactor. JM asked if plastic bags were becoming a problem in the food waste bins. RM stated that the vendor does not want any bags in the containers, and that to date there does not seem to be a major contamination problem. The MSW tonnage in July was lower than the MSW tonnage in July of 2017. RM stated that the food waste collection may be a contributing factor to the reduced amount of tonnage.

Discussion of Contamination in Town Hall Recycling Containers

There was a general discussion about reports sent to the Town by Lissa Bitterman of **ecomaine** regarding levels of contamination in the single-stream recycling containers both behind Town Hall and at the Recycling Center (RC). RM stated he has polled the Attendants and they say the compliance rate ranges around 80% and that they do get occasional pushback from residents about placing plastic bags in the compactors at the RC. This was followed by a general discussion about outreach, enforcement, signage, and other means to reduce the levels of contamination in all single-stream containers. It was suggested that some additional signage could be placed at the single-stream containers at the Recycling Center and on the "Silver Bullets" behind Town Hall. NB offered to get signs made up (which was endorsed by the members present) which she will get to RM for posting. RM will also check with the Town Manager about content for signage and the Town's social media outlets.

Discussion of Webpage and Communication & Outreach Strategies

NB spoke to the Town's webmaster (Wendy Derzawiec) about updating the content and videos on the "Cape Recycles" section of the website. There was a discussion about posting the contamination reports sent by the **ecomaine** in this section. KL will contact Lissa at **ecomaine** and get them in an Excel format. NB will place a post about the success of the food waste collection program at the RC on the Town's FB page.

Continued Discussion of Collaboration & Outreach with Pond Cove School

KL spoke with the Facilities Manager (Perry Schwarz) about the **ecomaine** grant. New bins have been purchased and placed in service in the PC/MS cafeteria and the grant is now closed out.

KL reported that she communicated with the Kindergarten Instructional Team Leader (Amanda Marsden) about assisting with curriculum development in new science units. Ms. Marsden indicated work won't begin on the relevant unit until late fall, so KL will reach out again in October.

KL asked the members present if there was any interest in volunteering in the PC/MS cafeteria again this Fall. She will reach out to the PC the Principal and Asst. Principal to offer help with lunch waste sorting.

MF led a general discussion about the way single-stream recyclables are collected in schools. The material is currently collected, bagged, and then placed in the containers by the janitorial staff outside the buildings. RM stated this will no longer be acceptable given the prohibition of plastic bags at **ecomaine**. He will meet with Perry this month to discuss the issue.

KL offered to reach out to the new Superintendent (Donna Wolfrom) to invite her to a Committee meeting. RM stated he recently met with her and that she seemed very interested in learning about the community.

Other Business

KL reported that she was contacted by Linda Strunk at Community Services about hosting another Composting Class. KL has contacted Mark King and the class is scheduled for Monday, October 1st.

TT sent an email to KL reporting that the IGA appears to be in compliance with the foam packaging ordinance. KL will respond by email to Bill Downes who sent an email to Jessica Sullivan, which was forwarded to the Committee on July 16th.

There was a discussion about the need for a meeting in September. KL felt that there are enough action items to warrant a meeting which is scheduled for Thursday, September 6th. RM stated he will be away on vacation that week. The October meeting was moved from October 4th to October 11th.

Citizen Opportunity for Discussion of Items on the Agenda

There was no public comment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 6, 2018

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert C. Malley