

Town of Cape Elizabeth
Recycling Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2018

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

Absent: Jennifer MacDonald (JM)

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

Public/Guests:

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

Approval of September 6, 2018 Draft Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved (5 Yes, 0 No)

Citizen Opportunity for Public Comment Not On the Agenda

No members of the public were present

Continued Discussion of Contamination in Town Hall Recycling Containers

TT reported that he's been tracking the contamination in the single-stream containers from data provided by **ecomaine**. He estimated that the contamination based on **ecomaine**'s current fees could have amounted to as much as a \$3,800 penalty for the Town to date.

RM reported that **ecomaine** will start charging a tip fee of \$35.00/ton for single-stream recyclables effective July 1, 2019. He stated that the Town may also have to pay contamination fees, but that has not been approved for member communities yet.

KL reported that JM contacted **ecomaine** about additional signage for the "silver bullets". They do have new signs and they are supposed to be installing them, but she asked RM if the Town could install them. RM stated that Town staff could install them, if needed.

There was a general discussion about monitoring the recycling containers out back of Town Hall. **ecomaine** has offered staff support to help educate users. The Committee thought some shifts on a Tuesday and a Sunday might be good times to be on site.

KL asked if anyone had contact information for the local Boy Scout Troop. She thought they could collect data and help assist user's to empty any bags they brought into the containers. RM knows one of the local scoutmasters and will reach out to him.

Continued Discussion of Collaboration & Outreach with Cape Elizabeth Schools

KL reported that the principal of the Pond Cove School has enlisted some volunteers to help out in the Pond Cove cafeteria for 3 months. They are helping students with the separation of food waste and containers. MF reported on his recent visits to the cafeteria. KL reported on the presentations done in the Kindergarten classes at Pond Cove, with the help of Katrina Venhuizen from **ecomaine**. There was a general discussion about future visits, the types of activities to host, and the potential for visiting other grade levels. KL stated she and MF will reach out to Cathy Stankard (School Curriculum Director) to initiate this discussion.

MF reported that signage in the Pond Cove Cafeteria needs to be replaced at some point. It's not holding up well due to the proximity of the food waste containers.

KL reported that the school has a new Head Custodian (Brett Kennedy). KL will invite both Brett and the Facilities Director (Perry Schwarz) to the November meeting.

There was a discussion about the bins received via the grant received from **ecomaine**. RM will contact Perry Schwarz to discuss their use and disposition.

PCPA Harvest Festival Scarecrow Contest: Recycling Committee Entry

CT reported she has a concept in mind for a scarecrow in conjunction with the upcoming PCPA Harvest Festival on October 20th. She suggested that members looking to donate items for the concept could drop them off at her residence.

Webpage & Communication Update

NB reported that she has updated the “Silver Bullet” page on the website and is working also with the Children’s Librarian at the TML to update their information. She also reported that she has put out some Facebook posts.

There was a general discussion about how best to promote the plastic bag prohibition in the single stream containers. NB will send the Cape Courier a color display ad for inclusion in the next issue.

There was a general discussion about the use of Facebook to get information to residents. RM suggested that NB reach out to the Town Manager to obtain guidance on protocols and permissions.

KL reported that November 15th is National Recycles Day.

Committee Member Updates & Correspondence

KL reported that the “Home Composting 101” class was cancelled due to a lack of interest. She suggested that the class could be rescheduled in the Spring of 2019.

RM reported that he was asked to attend the October 2nd Town Council workshop. The Town Council Chair had requested an update on the operation of the Recycling Center since the upgrade project was completed on July of 2017. RM stated the operation is going well, but that there has been a learning curve on such things as container management and hauling schedules. He said the food waste program is well received by residents and that the speed bumps appear to be effective in calming traffic. He stated that citizen reaction to the devices is mixed.

There was a general discussion about offering blue recycling bins for sale at a reduced price. RM suggested that the Town could subsidize the price of the bins to offer them at \$5.00. KL will contact **ecomaine** about the potential purchase. RM stated the bins could be sold at Public Works or at the Spring 2019 HHW Collection Day

Citizen Opportunity for Discussion of Items on the Agenda

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 PM.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 1, 2018.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert C. Malley