

Town of Cape Elizabeth
Recycling Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 1, 2018

Present: Chair, Kara Lavender Law (KL), Matthew Faulkner (MF), Tim Trachimowicz (TT) Nicole Boucher (NB), and Jennifer MacDonald (JM)

Absent: Aubrey Miller (AM) and Chelsea Torrey (CT)

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

Public/Guests: Brett Kennedy (CEHS Head Custodian)

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

Approval of October 11, 2018 Draft Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved (5 Yes, 0 No)

The following agenda item was taken out of order in deference to Mr. Kennedy's attendance at the meeting:

Update on Collaboration & Outreach with Cape Elizabeth Schools

KL welcomed Brett Kennedy to the meeting. He was invited to the meeting by KL to determine ways to enhance the current outreach efforts of the RC in the schools. Brett is the new Head Custodian and has been in his position for two months. Introductions were followed by a history of the Committee and a synopsis of the current outreach efforts in the PC/MS by KL.

Mr. Kennedy was formerly employed by the South Portland High School where he worked extensively on waste reduction and recycling efforts with staff and students. He stated that they achieved significant waste reduction in the cafeteria by engaging the students.

KL reported on recent conversations with the PC principal (Jason Manjourides) about the current separation practices and ways to simplify the program.

RM asked Mr. Kennedy if he had any thoughts on how to get the single-stream recyclables into the existing dumpsters loose and not leaving them in plastic bags. Mr. Kennedy stated he could change that practice so the Town would be in compliance with current **ecomaine** requirements.

MF stated that the real issue is changing the collection program both internally in the school and externally when the material is transported to **ecomaine**. He plans to visit the South Portland HS cafeteria to observe their food waste separation and logistical configuration.

There was a general discussion about the current logistics of the PC/MS cafeteria and ways it could be improved to enhance separation of food waste and recyclables.

Mr. Kennedy thought that the students are rushed after lunch and should be allotted a brief break to help with separation in the cafeteria.

There was a general discussion about next steps. Mr. Kennedy offered his assistance to the Committee in any way they might find helpful. KL will reach out to Jason Manjourides to set up a meeting to follow up on some of Mr. Kennedy's suggestions. She will also ask the Perry Schwarz (Facilities Manager) if Mr. Kennedy can attend the meeting.

Citizen Opportunity for Public Comment Not On the Agenda

No members of the public were present

Committee Member Updates & Correspondence

KL reported that she contacted Jeff Thoreck (School Athletic Director) about the use of polystyrene containers by various Booster Clubs at athletic events. He reported that he was not familiar with contact info for all of the

groups. KL will contact Kathy Raftice (Community Services & FWP Director) to assist with obtaining that information.

KL reported that she emailed Katrina Vanhuizen at **ecomaine** last month regarding the purchase of household recycling containers and about updating the signage on the “Silver Bullets” but has not received a response yet.

Recycling Center Update – Bob

RM reported that the Recycling Center was very busy during the recent “fee waiver” period, which ended on Monday the 29th. The staff has been asked to be more vigilant checking in-coming loads of wood waste. A display showing unacceptable materials has been erected next to the drop-off area to help residents identify those materials.

MF asked how the “speed bumps” were working. RM stated that some motorists are weaving around them and reaction is mixed on their placement. Despite this RM thought they were helping with traffic calming at the Recycling Center.

KL asked RM how the Swap Shop was doing. RM stated there hadn’t been any issues and praised the work of a handful of volunteers that cull out unwanted items and help with trash disposal. He is very appreciative of their dedication and their efforts.

Update on Contamination Data for Recycling Containers

TT reported that he has added the data in from **ecomaine** for September and October. It’s equating to approximately \$1,500 in penalties, if they were to be instituted.

Webpage & Communication Update

NB reported that a “Do Not Bag” recyclables color display advertisement was placed in the most recent issue (10/24) of the Cape Courier. A second, but slightly different advertisement will be placed in the November 7th issue.

She also reported that she has set up a Facebook page (@caperecycles) and encouraged those present to “Like” the page and share it with their “Friends”.

Follow-up on PCPA Harvest Festival Scarecrow Contest

CT erected scarecrow in conjunction with the PCPA Harvest Festival at the entrance to the Recycling Center on October 20th. “Reggie the Recycling Robot” greeted residents as they entered the facility.

Other Business

TT reported that the USA-based Boy Scout program does not offer a recycling-related merit badge. The English program does, however.

KL asked the members present if they felt the need to meet in December. She suggested there might be an update on a potential meeting with Jason Manjourides and Brett Kennedy, so a meeting date was set for **Thursday, December 6th**. NB & RM will be out of town that week.

KI suggested they review the 2018 Goals of the Committee. KL will contact Laura Tarantino (sp?) the (Environmental Club Advisor) and Jason Manjourides about putting together a “Green Team” in the schools.

Citizen Opportunity for Discussion of Items on the Agenda

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 PM.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 6th

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert C. Malley

DRAFT