

**Town of Cape Elizabeth
Recycling Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2019**

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

Absent: Chelsea Torrey (CT) and Tim Trachimowicz (TT)

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

Public/Guests: Valerie Deveraux, Town Councilor; Bruce Rayner, resident of 309 Fowler Road

Call to Order: Matt Faulkner, (MF) Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and welcomed Councilor Deveraux when she arrived shortly after the meeting was called to order.

Approval of January 3, 2019 Draft Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved (5 Yes, 0 No). RM thanked KL for her assistance with the monthly review of the draft minutes.

Citizen Opportunity for Public Comment Not On the Agenda

Proposal for Cape Elizabeth to Designate two weeks a Year as “Plogging Weeks” – Bruce Rayner (resident)

Mr. Rayner was in attendance to answer any questions about his proposal. KL asked if he would consider doing a “pilot” event for one day. He stated he preferred proposing the two weeks as noted in his written request. RM stated that if the proposal was endorsed by the Committee it would then be forwarded to the Town Manager for inclusion on the March Town Council meeting agenda for their consideration.

There was a general discussion about the promotion of the event. Councilor Deveraux suggested involving high school students in the event.

After some additional discussion, the Committee moved and seconded a motion to endorse the event and forward it to the Town Council for their consideration. The motion was approved 5 Yes 0 No.

RM will forward the request to the Town Manager.

Continued Discussion of Goals & Objectives of the Recycling Committee for 2019

MF reviewed the goals and objectives discussed at the January meeting. These included an endorsement of the “Plogging” events, working with the schools to replace plastic straws with paper straws, continue to promote reduce/reuse/recycle awareness, continued outreach to the schools, development of a welcome packet for new residents to learn about the Recycling Center, attendance at the Strawberry Festival and working with Community Services on a recycling workshop. KL suggested this workshop could take the form of a panel discussion to address the current state of the recycling industry from the national to the local level.

There was a general discussion about plastic straws and initiatives in the area to ban the use of them.

RM suggested that MF assemble the goal topics into 4 or 5 categories and present them to the Committee at the March meeting for consideration and approval; which he agreed to do.

Update on Contamination Data for Recycling Containers – Tim Trachimowicz

The Committee was asked last month to make a recommendation on whether the recycling containers behind the Town Hall should be removed given the level of contamination in them being tracked by **ecomaine** each month. TT was unable to attend the meeting. He had volunteered to develop an analysis of the hauling costs and potential contamination penalties the Town could be facing after July 1, 2019, when fees start being assessed by

ecomaine. There was a general discussion about the pros and cons of removing the containers along with the implications it would have on the “single stream” compactors at the Recycling Center. RM stated there may be financial implications and an impact on the current hauling schedule. Currently, the solid waste and “single stream” containers are hauled when the facility is closed.

KL stated that even if the Town Hall containers are removed there will continue to be contamination issues in the “single stream” compactors up at the Recycling Center.

NB thought that the impact of the additional hauls needed up at the Recycling Center might be cost neutral. She recommended that the OCC (cardboard) container should be kept at the Town Hall. She also said if the “silver bullet” containers were removed it might be easier to control contamination at one central location.

MF asked if the Town could place a notice in the tax bills explaining that the removal of them is under consideration. RM will follow up with Town Manager Matt Sturgis.

There was a general discussion about the merits of keeping and removing the containers.

To close the discussion, there was a consensus to keep the OCC (cardboard) container but that more information was needed before any recommendation could be made on the “silver bullets”.

RM stated he plans to carry a contamination fee allowance in the FY 2020 budget, which is due to the Town Manager on Friday, February 15th. KL suggested that TT’s estimates be used in the absence of any hard data.

Webpage and Communication Update – Nicole Boucher

NB reported that activity on the Facebook page is going well. There have been 128 “Likes” to date. She currently has a contest going on now called “Win the Bin”, where a participant is selected to win a plastic recycling bin.

RM reported he has picked up 20 recycling bins from **ecomaine** and stated that they could be used for promotional activities or sold to residents. A fee of \$5.00 was suggested. RM to check with Debra Lane (Town Clerk) to see if sales tax is applicable on the bins.

Councilor Deveraux stated that the high school has a TV station called “Cape TV” and that maybe students could produce a short vignette to promote recycling.

Update of Communication, Collaboration & Outreach with CE Schools

KL has delivered some small scales to the PC/MS cafeteria for weighing recyclables. She reported that the school is now focusing on recycling drink containers only. She felt the Committee has done what they can do and that further recycling encouragement in the PC school needed to come from the principal (Jason Manjourides) and the head custodian (Brett Kennedy). She also reported that she saw some signage in the PC school in the hallway about plastic straws.

There was a general discussion regarding the on-going issues associated with handling recyclables in the schools and how they are handled both inside and outside the buildings.

Committee Member Updates & Correspondence

MF reported he received an inquiry from the Town of Bethel, ME, asking for information on our plastic bag ordinance.

KL asked about the status of correcting the text in the Single Use Bag ordinance (Chapter 11, Article IV). RM will follow up with Town Manager Matt Sturgis.

MF reported on an email received from AM that the annual Strawberry Festival is scheduled for Saturday, June 29th. The event organizer is looking for help with food waste composting at this year’s event. RM suggested that extra food waste bins from the Recycling Center could be brought down to the event and picked up by Public Works staff on Monday, July 1st.

KL suggested that the event organizer (Imogene Altznauer) be invited to the March meeting to discuss recycling and composting at the event. AM will reach out to extend the invitation.

MF urged the members present to check out **ecomaine’s “RECYCLAPEDIA”**. He stated it was well organized and useful.

Other Business

RM reported that a new staff member has been hired at the Recycling Center. Scott Forrest joined the team on January 23, 2019. RM reported that he attended an educational workshop at **ecomaine** on February 7th.

Citizen Opportunity for Discussion of Items On the Agenda

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47PM.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 7, 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert C. Malley, Director of Public Works

DRAFT