

Town of Cape Elizabeth
Recycling Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2019

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

Absent: Kara Lavender Law (KL), Tim Trachimowicz (TT), and Chelsea Torrey (CT)

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

Public/Guests: None Present

Call to Order: Matthew Faulkner (MF) called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Approval of March 7, 2019 Draft Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved (4 Yes, 0 No)

Citizen Opportunity for Public Comment Not On the Agenda

There were no members of the public present.

Finalization of Goals & Objectives of the Committee for 2019

MF reported that KL had formatted the goals and objectives into a document following the March 7th meeting. Copies were handed out at the meeting. After a brief discussion, the following goals and objectives were approved (4 Yes 0 No)

1. Community education and outreach, especially on working to eliminate contamination in single stream recycling collection and to reemphasize the waste management hierarchy (reduce/reuse/recycle/compost/waste to energy/landfill).
Specific objectives include:
 - a. Redesign informational materials about the Recycling Center and other waste collection opportunities in Cape Elizabeth (e.g., Household Hazardous Waste collection, fall clean up days, paper shredding event), and develop a distribution plan to existing and new residents.
 - b. Offer a free community class through Community Services on understanding the state of recycling in 2019 from national to local levels.
 - c. Support Cape Elizabeth residents who have proposed one or more town “plogging” events in which residents pick up roadside and/or trailside litter while engaging in outdoor activities such as walking or jogging.
 - d. Have an informational table at the Strawberry Festival with information and engagement activities for adults and kids.
 - e. Communicate with the community via social media (Cape Elizabeth Recycling Committee Facebook page) and Cape Courier articles.

2. Continue reaching out to Cape Elizabeth schools to offer collaboration and support for waste reduction and recycling.
Specific objectives include:
 - a. Continue to work with school administrators and custodial staff on the updated plan for recycling collection and handling in the Pond Cove/Middle School cafeteria.
 - b. Continue to engage with interested people within the schools, including students, teachers and others, to identify short-term collaboration opportunities.
 - c. Research alternatives to single-use plastic straws for school cafeterias, and present to school principals for consideration.

3. Committee research to stay abreast of solid waste and recycling trends in Maine from the municipality to state level, including policy changes at ecomaine.
Focus topics include:
 - a. Tracking contamination in Cape Elizabeth recycling loads and assessment of fees using data reported by ecomaine.
 - b. Proposed statewide plastic bag ban.
 - c. Possible plastic straw ban in Portland.

Report on Town Council Discussion on Town Hall Recycling Containers – Bob

RM reported that the disposition of the Town Hall recycling containers was discussed as part of his budget review with the Town Council (TC) on March 21st. The consensus of the TC was to remove the containers this spring. The reasoning was the lack of any physical presence to monitor what was being deposited into the containers and that the Town is now paying a surcharge for any loads that exceed 26% “contamination” as defined by **ecomaine**. There are also bulky waste items being left next to the containers and litter is a problem in the rear of the property. RM also stated that he reported to the TC that it would be easier to monitor loads if all the single-stream material was brought to the Recycling Center since those containers are staffed by the attendants. He stated that the target date for removing the containers was Monday, May 20th.

The Committee encouraged staff to get the word out to residents as soon as possible. RM stated that the Town Manager will be putting an article in the Cape Courier. RM stated that the town’s LED Message Board could also be positioned in the rear of the Town Hall parking lot to help get the word out.

The Committee then had a general discussion about contamination in the single-stream program as a whole and at the schools. Since questions developed about the collection of single-stream in the schools, RM suggested that the Facilities Manager (Perry Schwarz) be invited to a future meeting to discuss the collection of recyclables in the schools.

Follow-up Discussion on Strawberry Festival Planning

MF thanked those present at the March meeting for participating in the discussion with the event coordinator (Imogene Altznauer). There was a general discussion about the food-waste recycling at the event. RM had offered to bring totes down to the Saturday

event on Two Lights Road, but that they would need to be returned to either the Public Works Facility or the Recycling Center by a third party. AM stated she could contact Ms. Altnauer, but RM offered to do that directly.

AM asked those present if the Committee should participate in the silent auction? The consensus of those present was “Yes”. It was suggested that a backyard compost bin along with some smaller promotional items could be donated.

RM offered to process the vendor fee for the event and will coordinate getting the pop-up tent, the tables, and chairs down to the event on Two Lights Road.

NB asked what the Committee activity would be. RM reported that items from the sorting game are here at Public Works. It was also discussed to offer rock painting again this year.

It was noted that **ecomaine** will also be participating in the event.

Webpage and Social Media Communication Update

NB reported that there hasn't been much recycling-related activity taking place on the Facebook page. She reported that she will be working on a plan for the next few months, including messaging related to the recycling containers being removed behind Town Hall next month.

Status of Communication, Collaboration & Outreach with CE Schools

MF reported that there has been no recent outreach to the schools.

Committee Member Updates & Correspondence

AM reported on an article from **NPR** related to plastic bag bans and fees.

Other Business

MF will organize a schedule for the Committee's participation in the up-coming HHW/E-Waste Collection on Saturday, May 11th. NB will send MF a “Doodle” poll link to assist with that endeavor.

RM reported that the “Plogging Weeks” events proposed by Bruce Rayner were endorsed by the Town Council at their meeting on March 11th. He also reported on a beneficial workshop that he attended at **ecomaine** on March 15th.

There was a brief discussion about highlighting a local business that has an active recycling program.

Citizens Opportunity for Discussion of Items On the Agenda

There were no members of the public present.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

The next meeting/outreach event of the Committee will be held on Saturday, May 11th, 2019 (HHW/E-Waste Collection)

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert C. Malley
Director of Public Works

DRAFT