

**Town of Cape Elizabeth**  
**Recycling Committee**  
Meeting Minutes  
August 1, 2019

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

**Absent:** None

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

**Public/Guests:** Rachel Davis from the Thomas Memorial Library & Steve Green (resident) of 7 Misty Lane

**Call to Order:** Matthew Faulkner (MF) called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM.

**Approval of June 6, 2019 Draft Meeting Minutes**

After a minor typographical correction the minutes were approved ( 7 Yes, 0 No)

**Citizen Opportunity for Public Comment Not On the Agenda**

Mr. Green spoke to a couple of Committee members at the Strawberry Festival and was interested in the Committee's activities.

**Promoting Recycling Education at Thomas Memorial Library (TML)**

Rachel Davis introduced herself to the Committee. She is the Asst. Director/Children's Librarian. Her husband is in a similar capacity at the South Portland Library. They are interested in seeing how both libraries can help out their respective communities with recycling education. Mrs. Davis is interested in a cooperative venture with the Committee. She has also reached out to Katrina Vanhuizen at **ecomaine** for assistance with recycling information.

KL suggested an interactive activity versus presentations, which were attempted earlier this year with little public interest. There were a number of activities suggested such as creating a "No More Wish Recycling" campaign, adding a "Green Story Hour", adding recycling containers and a "CLYNK" receptacle in the library. Mrs. Davis said that there are recycling receptacles in the building.

NB suggested that an "Instagram" board could be erected where people write messages which could then be posted on the social media site.

MF asked if information can be added to the TML tablets that are loaned out to students. There was a general discussion about other activities that could be undertaken.

Mrs. Davis asked about the best way to communicate with Committee members. RM advised the group on restrictions on electronic correspondence between Committee members. An outreach or workshop session was suggested by KL. Mrs. Davis will develop some proposals and send them to MF and RM for distribution to the rest of the

Committee. The Committee thanked Rachel for her interest and looks forward to working with her in the future.

### **Maine DEP – Producer Packaging Legislative Initiative**

RM forwarded this to Committee at the suggestion of Town Council Chair, Jamie Garvin. The Maine DEP is developing legislation to establish producer responsibility law for packaging in Maine. The “Resolve To Support Maine Recycling Programs” (2019 Resolve Chapter 42) was passed by the legislature and signed by the governor.

KL said the State of Maine has been quite progressive in this field and offered to reach out to her colleagues to obtain more information for the Committee. RM said the item can be added to the September meeting agenda for further discussion.

MF thought it was a good endeavor even if consumer goods became more expensive.

### **Critique of Strawberry Festival Activities**

The Committee felt that the event went well and that it’s great event to participate in. JM suggested having more assistance next year with monitoring the food-waste compost bins. All agreed that the layout and being positioned next to **ecomaine** was beneficial.

KL asked about providing promotional items such as recycling bins to non-residents.

CT felt that items having to be purchased should only be given to Cape Elizabeth residents.

TT spoke with some non-residents who were impressed with the Committee’s activities.

AM will reach out to Imogene Alznauer (Event Organizer) to get feedback and ideas for next year.

### **Webpage & Social Media Communication Update – Nicole Boucher**

NM reported that she initiated a poll on Facebook to gauge interest in moving the date of the annual HHW/E-Waste Collection day (see more below).

NB has reached out to the 15-20 businesses in town to inquire if they would like to highlight a particular “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle” aspect of their business.

### **2020 HHW/E-Waste Collection Day – May 2, 2020**

RM has moved the date of the 2020 collection to the first Saturday in May (May 2, 2020) following the poll results on Facebook that NB compiled. Slightly over 62% suggested the event be moved to the first Saturday and 38% were opposed. After careful consideration of the results, RM stated that he has scheduled the event with the contractors that assist the town with the collection.

### **Recycling Center Update – Bob Malley**

RM reported that the recent heat wave has been challenging for the attendants to work in. He said there aren’t many opportunities to get in the shade and still keep up with cycling the compactors. The Recycling Center is exposed to the elements throughout the year, which makes it difficult for the staff at times.

The Pay & Display program at the Park has sparked an interest in obtaining Recycling Center permits. The permits are also available at the Police Station.

RM reported that some of the Swap Shop volunteers are saving out items from the Swap Shop for the Asylum Seekers program. Beth Cary, one of the volunteers was recently

featured in “The Forecaster”. RM reported that the Town Council is very supportive of their efforts. There was followed by a general discussion about items at the Swap Shop and the need to remove items on a regular basis.

**Committee Member Updates & Correspondence**

MF raised the issue of engaging with the schools on recycling efforts. He stated that he doesn't feel there will be any significant changes as to how recyclables are handled in the near future. The Committee has invited Perry Schwarz, the Facilities & Transportation Director to the September meeting to continue that discussion.

NB reported that she will be meeting with the president of the Pond Cove Parents Association (PCPA).

**Other Business**

There was no other business discussed

**Citizens Opportunity for Discussion of Items on the Agenda**

Mr. Green said his attendance at the meeting was helpful to him.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 PM.**

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Thursday, September 5, 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert C. Malley  
Director of Public Works