

History of the Bottle Shed

“Groups” refer to Cape Elizabeth-based non-profit service clubs and organizations benefiting the youth of Cape Elizabeth.

The bottle shed was first opened in December 1992 and for many years administered by its’ visionary Rosemary Reid before turning it over to the town. Ms. Reid’s idea for a returnable bottle shed was a way in which to help financially support the non-profit, Cape Elizabeth groups benefiting youth. A garden shed from Ms. Reid’s yard was used until the success of the program required additional space and in 1996 a garage was built.

Groups were assigned the bottle shed for one month. Volunteers would sort and package the bottles and cans preparing them for pick up by a redemption company. A \$50.00 rental fee was charged and groups received all of the proceeds for the month.

For many years there were more groups than months available. The program became popular and groups depended on this fundraising effort. In the early years the monthly proceeds started at an average of \$700 and increased to \$2000. Since its inception in 1992 – August 30, 1998 a total of \$100,000 was raised. At the height of the fundraising the monthly average increased to approximately \$3000.

In recent years groups began having problems recruiting volunteers which left the task of sorting bottles to a few, resulting in fewer applications for the bottle shed. Volunteers not showing up when scheduled created a backlog of bottles and placed a burden on the town to deal with the overflow. Staff began to question whether the model was sustainable long-term.

Factors which have contributed to fewer groups applying:

- 1) Initially students were to be involved in working the shed however over time it became parents who took on the responsibility. With busy schedules fewer volunteers were available.
- 2) Groups created their own bottle return program through CLYNK which became an easier fundraising option.
- 3) Some groups provided an option of charging a fee in lieu of working the bottle shed reducing the volunteer pool even more.
- 4) Most groups wanted to be scheduled certain months e.g. within the sport or extracurricular season, during the school year or larger volume months. Scheduling became problematic as some months remained open.

In one last effort to retain the model, in March 2013 the town announced groups would be assigned months by a new lottery system and applications were drawn randomly. The first lottery on May 1st was advertised for the months of August 2013 – December 2014 however not enough groups applied to fill the season. A second lottery was held on April 30, 2014 for the months of June 2014 – May 2015 with the same results.

With the dwindling interest and the long-time provider of the redemption service retiring, the town reviewed options.

- 1) Close the bottle shed.
- 2) Continue with the current model leaving several months open.
- 3) Provide a CLYNK type of service.
- 4) Provide bins for single sort with proceeds retained by the town and distributed to qualified groups.

In February 2015 the town partnered with a new redemption company and moved to single sort. Bottles and cans no longer have to be sorted. Monthly proceeds are retained by the town with the intent to distribute funds to qualified groups. The program is not without problems. Not all residents are adhering to the signs asking for bottles and cans to be taken out of bags and dumped into bins. Bags are left full requiring staff to dump them out.

Since the town took over the program in February 2015, a total of \$20,218.30 (through 12/2015), an average of \$1838.00 per month, has been collected. To date the total amount of proceeds exceed \$600,000.

1/2016

Update October 31, 2019

Following the town council's approval of the new model and establishment of the bottle shed committee (12/8/2014), the committee was organized through the town manager's office with a representative from the town and school. Officer David Galvan was appointed staff to the committee. The original members currently serve; Adrienne Murphy, 32 Philip Road and Melanie Thomas, 6 Starboard Drive.

The bottle shed committee began meeting in January 2016 and has made the following allocations:

4/2016 \$21,000
10/2016 \$14,200
12/2017 \$17,000
12/2018 \$16,150

Before funds are dispersed, recommendations from the bottle shed committee are referred to the town clerk to ensure beneficiaries qualify and provide appropriate documentation.

In March 2018 the town partnered with South Portland Redemption Center after receiving notice that the previous redemption company, Boots Bounty, would no longer be able to serve the town. The town is being well-served by South Portland Redemption Center with pickups twice per week. The earlier concerns of overflowing bins and an unkempt building are no longer reported at this time.

Applications are now available to apply for the next allocation. The deadline to apply is Friday, November 8, 2019. The total amount of funding available is \$17,000.00.

**Town of Cape Elizabeth
Returnable Bottle Shed
Application – Request for Donation**

Application Deadline: 4:00 p.m. Friday, November 8, 2019

**Please return completed application and accompanying documents to:
Town of Cape Elizabeth Attn: Officer David Galvan
P.O. Box 6260 Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107
Questions: 767-3323 or david.galvan@capeelizabeth.org**

No more than one application per organization may be submitted.

Name of Organization: _____

Volunteer Coordinator Contact Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

<p>Amount Requested \$ _____</p> <p>How many children benefit from the organization? _____</p> <p>When was the organization established? _____</p> <p>*What is the organization's tax identification number? _____</p> <p>Is the organization established with the CEHS Student Activity Account?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p>

What other fundraising events will the organization be sponsoring and when?

Is the organization funded by another source(s)? If so, what is the source(s) and what percentage of the budget is paid for by that source(s)?

Is the organization involved with the Cape Elizabeth School Department?
If so, in what way?

What specifically will the money be used for?

Person Responsible for Receiving Payment

(If the organization is established with the CEHS Student Activity Account, funds will be sent to the Student Activity Coordinator for deposit.)

Name: _____

Title: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

The person responsible for completing this application, please sign and date below.

Name and Title

Signature

Date

**On a separate sheet of paper, type a brief summary explaining the impact the organization has on the youth of Cape Elizabeth and the benefit receiving this money will have on the organization.

In order for the application to be deemed complete the following is required to be submitted prior to the deadline.

- Application
- **Summary
- *Tax Identification Number – See page 1.
- W-9

For Office Use:

_____ Date Application Received _____ Complete _____ Incomplete
_____ Summary
_____ Tax Identification Number
_____ W-9