

Town of Cape Elizabeth
Recycling Committee
Virtual Meeting Minutes
September 3, 2020

Virtual Meeting. Joining info: Enter the link below to Join Hangouts

Google Meet: <https://meet.google.com/qsq-qrrr-eia>

Join by phone: (US) +1 931-492-9834 PIN: 215 820 754#

Present: Chair, Matthew Faulkner (MF), Aubrey Miller (AM), Kara Lavender Law (KL), Nicole Boucher (NB), Tim Trachimowicz (TT)

Absent: Jennifer MacDonald (JM), Bruce Rayner (BR)

Staff: Jay Reynolds (JR), Director of Public Works

Public/Guests: No members of the public joined the online meeting.

1. Call to Order:

Matthew Faulkner (MF) called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

2. Approval of August 6, 2020 Draft Meeting Minutes:

The August 6, 2020 meeting minutes were approved as written by a roll call vote.

5 Yes, 0 No

3. Citizens Opportunity for Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda:

No members of the public joined the online meeting.

4. Follow up discussion by the Chair regarding Plastic Bags and potential work with the Town's Ordinance Committee:

MF reported on a conversation with Town Manager Matt Sturgis about addressing the State legislation on plastic bags that supersedes the Town ordinance. In summary, it was the opinion of the Town Manager that the State Statute, soon to become effective on January 1, 2021, would be sufficient. No further action by the Recycling Committee was recommended by Town Staff.

5. Webpage, Communication and Social Media Update:

NB reported that she has been focusing recent efforts on the online resource known as "Buy Nothing/Sell Nothing" on Facebook. The response to utilize this option has been positive. This is also important as the swap shop is remains closed.

NP also reported that an older Facebook post from early August indicated that the swap shop would be open on September 1st. A few residents noted that the shop was still closed as of September 1. The Cape Recycles page will be updated to indicate that both the swap shop and the bottle redemption building remain closed until further notice.

6. Recycling Center Update:

JR updated the committee on the restarting of disposal fees at the recycling center. Fees have been waived since March due to the pandemic. Fees will resume on Tuesday, September 8th. JR provided a copy of Ecomaine's fiscal year-end report that municipalities receive. It showed a yearly recycling rate of 27.9% for FY'20. A committee member asked whether this was lower than prior years. JR has noticed that all member community's recycling rates have dropped as a result of the effort to remove contaminated recycling. KL and TT indicated an interest in looking at historical numbers for Cape Elizabeth. JR also noted that assembling historical data would be something he will be showing at a future committee meeting.

JR provided a copy of the Town's Recycling Center flier, which typically is included in the Cape Courier as an insert. JR asked when typically this happens and if the committee had a preference on timing. A committee member recommended including this in the Courier during its next cycle, or sooner rather than later as to avoid the upcoming election cycle.

JR also updated the committee on the current status of reopening the bottle donation building.

7. Household Hazardous Waste Day:

JR noted that this year's Household Hazardous Waste Day is scheduled for Saturday, November 7th. JR also noted that the annual survey questionnaire is printed and ready for the committee to assist with information gathering during the event. The entire committee discussed the data gathering and data content with regards to approaching vehicles, along with other logistics such as handling of forms. NB suggested a brief online survey, and to have residents who are cued up for drop off perform the survey while waiting. NB mentioned a giveaway for participation. NB suggested a Google survey. TT offered to assist in developing the survey. MF suggested that someone check with the Town with regards to IT/online survey protocols. NB requested that JR keep some recycling inserts for HHW day for handouts. TT inquired if any changes are expected with the HHW day logistics. JR noted that the program should run as usual, with social distance protocols and face coverings implemented during the event.

8. Follow up discussion regarding potential meetings or discussions with other Municipal Recycling Committees:

MF introduced this discussion item and indicated the committee has had interest in hearing from other recycling and/or sustainability-related committees from other municipalities. MF asked JR to provide some detail with regards to Falmouth's Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee. JR provided an overview of their efforts and some specific projects that they have performed that relate to recycling and sustainability.

MF elaborated on the committee's historical efforts with the School department to promote recycling within their facilities. NB mentioned Ecomaine's online education options. KL mentioned that online resources may be able to implement into the School's remote learning efforts.

The entire committee discussed the potential expansion of committee duties. It was noted that the Town also has an Energy Committee. The committee discussed both committee's duties, goals, and objectives. TT noted the energy committee's focus appears to be more in regards to facilities and utility/power consumption. AM recalled that the committee had previously discussed the possibility of taking on 'sustainability' efforts. NB stated the options of expanding recycling to

include sustainability as part of the committee. AM and MF were in favor of this idea. It was mentioned that revising a committee's roles and responsibilities may require Council action. MF suggested this be a topic of future meetings after the HHW day.

9. Committee Member Updates & Correspondence:

KL updated the committee on previous Enhanced Product Responsibility (EPR) efforts. KL noted the following website as an informational resource of NRCM's efforts: recyclingreform.org. Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM) is seeking municipal support on this matter. KL was going to see if a representative from NRCM would join the committee at one of its future meetings.

10. Other Business:

There was a discussion about having recycling committee participation and/or membership with a younger representation (school student).

There was a discussion regarding HHW day versus a regular scheduled recycling committee meeting in November. Typically, HHW day is a substitution for the committee's regular standing meeting.

11. Citizens Opportunity for Discussion of Items on the Agenda:

No members of the public joined the online meeting.

12. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Thursday, October 1, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Reynolds