

Town of Cape Elizabeth
Recycling Committee
Virtual Meeting Minutes
November 5, 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), Jennifer MacDonald (JM), Aubrey Miller (AM), Kara Lavender Law (KL), Nicole Boucher (NB), Tim Trachimowicz (TT)

Absent: 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 7:09 PM.

2. Approval of October 1, 2020 Draft Meeting Minutes:

The October 1, 2020 meeting minutes were amended to correct a few typographical/syntax errors. They were then approved as revised by a roll call vote. **6 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. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Update from Natural Resources Council of Maine

Chrissy Adamowicz from the Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM) provided a presentation to the committee. The presentation covered the topic of recycling reform, and in particular, the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) initiative. In the presentation, the main benefits were expanded upon. It was shown that many other countries across the globe already have EPR packaging legislation/programs in place. Further detail was provided regarding LD 1341 and LD 2014. Currently, there is no EPR packaging law in effect in Maine. Additional discussion was held regarding NRCM's efforts and municipal support. Several Greater Portland communities have signed NRCM's letter of support and Chrissy urged Cape Elizabeth to consider supporting their efforts. The committee discussed this and agreed that bringing this to the Town Council could be a future effort to pursue. Several committee members asked questions regarding various aspects of the EPR presentation/program.

5. Webpage, Communication and Social Media Update:

NB reported that she has been promoting the upcoming household hazardous waste day on social media. It was also reported that one or two residents commented on social media regarding the

bottle donation center. The committee discussed the transition of NB from the Recycling Committee to the Town Council; and who would be able to take over the Facebook page. NB stated she would transfer the administrative privileges to one of the committee members before her departure.

6. Committee Member Updates & Correspondence:

None.

7. Recycling Center Update:

JR stated that the recycling center continues to operate as it normally does. He reported that he has been getting weekly updates from the attendants, and had not heard of any issues or concerns regarding the newly restarted bottle donation program. A committee member asked if bags full of bottles could be placed inside the Clynk bags, so that residents do not need to transfer the bottles. JR offered to research this with Clynk.

8. Household Hazardous Waste Day:

It was noted that this year's household hazardous waste day is a 'go' for this coming Saturday, November 7th.

9. Other Business:

There was a discussion regarding the next meeting. The committee decided that the next recycling committee meeting will be in January, which is January 7th, 2021.

KL discussed the possibility of working on grants for bottle refilling stations. She believed the Portland Water District offer these, and the committee could accomplish this as a potential future goal.

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

No members of the public joined the meeting.

11. The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 PM.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Thursday, January 7th, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Reynolds