

Town of Cape Elizabeth
Recycling Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2019

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

Absent: Jennifer MacDonald (JM)

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

Public/Guests: Donna Wolfrom, CE School Superintendent

Call to Order: Matthew Faulkner (MF) called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Approval of October 10, 2019 & November 7, 2019 Draft Meeting Minutes

The October 10, 2019 meeting minutes were approved after a minor edit and the November 7, 2019 meeting minutes were approved as written. **5 Yes, 0 No**

Citizen Opportunity for Public Comment Not On the Agenda

No members of the public were present

School Recycling Program – Discussion with Donna Wolfrom, CE School Superintendent

MF welcomed Donna Wolfrom to the meeting. He gave an overview of the recycling challenges and asked how the Committee can help improve the current recycling issues in the school. Donna stated they have added “lunch aides” in the cafeteria but were only able to fill two of the four positions needed. She also stated she is aware of the challenges of getting the sorted material from the classroom to the containers outside the buildings. She reported that there is a building committee that has been created to study future facility improvements. It is hoped that part of their charge could be to address these challenges as part of their charge. MF reported that one major problem is if the sorted material is placed in bags it is treated as a contaminant by **ecomaine** and then transferred to the trash-to-energy facility for incineration. Donna did report the School Board recently adopted five new goals one of which is related to the environment.

KL asked if the Committee could assist with any strategic planning on this goal.

There was a general discussion about items that are currently being recycled in the PC/MS cafeteria and schools. It appears that milk cartons and paper are the two easiest items to recycle.

MF stated that placing single sort items in totes outside the building is the most effective way to deal with the challenges of the containers, but it is also the most expensive.

There was a general discussion about the issues with the existing buildings and the potential for building improvements on the school campus.

KL asked about engaging with Cathy Stankard (Director of Teaching and Learning) on an environmental awareness curriculum.

RM will contact the hauler servicing the containers at the school to inquire if they have a more user-friendly container that could be used for single-sort at the schools. This led to a general discussion about the best equipment to enable recycling at the schools. The Committee thanked Donna for coming to the meeting.

Review draft of updated Recycling Center Brochure – Nicole

NB shared a second revision of the draft Recycling Center brochure with the committee. The members present offered some additional suggestions and thanked NB for her efforts. NB will get a PDF of the document to MF for distribution to the Committee for a final review.

Webpage, Communication and Social Media Update – Nicole Boucher

NB thanked everyone for sending articles for the Facebook page, which has received 200 “Likes” so far. MF asked AM if she has had any communication since the October meeting with Rachel Davis (Asst. Librarian/Youth Services Librarian) at the Thomas Memorial Library. AM reported that she did and suggested a “recycling-themed” story time as part of their conversation.

NRCM – LD 1431 Proposed Packaging Resolution Language

MF introduced the item. Matt Sturgis (Town Manager) would like the Committee to make a recommendation to the Town Council on the proposed legislation. A local resident had approached him about adopting a resolution (see supporting documents in the meeting materials for December) and forwarding that on to a representative at the National Resources Council of Maine (NRCM). There was a general discussion about the legislation, its implementation and its impact on small businesses. There was a consensus by those present to support more sustainable packaging, but the Committee felt that they needed more information on the legislation, the steps needed for the implementation and how potential cost savings would be achieved before they could make a full recommendation on the proposed resolution.

Recycling Center Update – Bob Malley

RM reported that the debris collection done by Public Works following the October 17th windstorm staff was well received by the residents.

Committee Member Updates & Correspondence

NB reported that the Swap Shop now has a Facebook page. It was apparently started by one of the Swap Shop volunteers.

Other Business

There was a general discussion about how the school recycling containers are serviced and the contents are reported to **ecomaine**.

KL thanked CT for her service to the Committee during her tenure.

Citizens Opportunity for Discussion of Items on the Agenda

There were no members of the public present.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Thursday, January 2, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert C. Malley
Director of Public Works

DRAFT