

**Town of Cape Elizabeth
Recycling Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 5, 2021**

Present: Tim Trachimowicz (TT), Matthew Faulkner (MF), Aubrey Miller (AM), Bruce Rayner (BR), Stephanie Austin (SA)

Absent: Jennifer MacDonald (JM)

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

Public/Guests: None

1. Call to Order:

TT called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

2. Approval of the July 1, 2021 Draft Meeting Minutes:

The July 1, 2021 meeting minutes were approved as submitted 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 were in attendance.

4. Water Bottle Filling Station Project:

TT initiated the discussion regarding the proposed water bottle filling station and grant opportunity. SA announced that she had contacted the Portland Water District (PWD) to discuss the grant and the proposed location. SA indicated that the PWD liked the proposal and location. There was a discussion amongst the committee regarding the last two questions on the grant application. The committee then discussed the project installation cost and how best to proceed with the finances. JR agreed to meet a local contractor to obtain a rough cost estimate. There was additional discussion regarding the Fort Williams Park Committee. KL noted they wanted to see a graphic representation of what the filling station would look like. KL also noted there are different styles and costs that can be selected under the PWD grant program. MF recommended that the committee select the style that includes the lower level drinking water option for dogs. The committee continued discussing the costs and finances related to the project. KL asked SA if she could contact Portland and South Portland for more information on their water filling station installations and costs. JR offered to discuss the finances with the Town Manager. TT asked about the grant submission deadline. SA noted that it was October 31st.

5. Committee Member Updates & Correspondence:

TT discussed the bottle donations program. TT indicated that he has compiled a list of groups and contact information of former applicants and recipients of the program. It is compiled with Google sheets. TT noted that there were about 27 groups over a three-year period that were recipients. AM noted that no funds were dispersed in 2020 due to Covid. JR asked if TT would be the point person for updating the list. TT asked if unused funds would roll over from year to

year. JR replied that he believed that has been historically the case and would presumably continue. TT noted that historically, most groups received what they asked for. TT also noted that many groups were internal School groups. SA inquired about how competitive the process was and how the committee envisions this in the future. KL noted that having more groups know and be interested in the program may generate more interest in donating bottles at the recycling center. The entire committee discussed the application process, including the new online option that is being developed. The committee also discussed future outreach and public notification. SA offered to contact the Cape Courier to see if they would publish a story on the program.

6. Recycling Center Update:

JR noted that the Recycling Center was operating well. JR provided in the agenda an updated graph that includes MSW and Recycling data for fiscal year 2021. JR elaborated on the nature of the information shown on the graph. The committee discussed certain aspects of the graph and the recycling program. BR discussed the impact of composting and food waste drop off and inquired about the tonnage for food waste. JR noted that he has calendar year information for food waste and will provide it at the next meeting.

JR noted that he is still exploring the implementation of a paint recycling opportunity through “Paint Care”. He anticipates a late summer/fall implementation of this program. MF inquired about what products are eligible under the program. JR provided a general response, and also offered to provide the specifics at the next Recycling Committee meeting.

7. Other Business:

KL announced that the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging legislation was passed by the State. It was noted that Maine is the first state in the U.S. to pass this type of legislation. JR inquired about next steps in the process, and noted that Ecomaine may be a part of the distribution of reimbursements to municipalities. KL noted that it may be several months before any new updates on the written version of the law. TT inquired about who would be the agency or steward for the project. The committee agreed to continue monitoring progress on the program as they arise.

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

No members of the public joined the meeting.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Thursday, September 2, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Reynolds