

**Town of Cape Elizabeth**  
**Recycling Committee**  
Virtual Meeting Minutes  
May 7, 2020

<https://meet.google.com/bes-vyys-xkg>

**Ability to join by phone: 1-224-513-0222 (PIN: 654063978)**

**Present:** Chair, Matthew Faulkner (MF), Nicole Boucher (NB), Jennifer MacDonald (JM), Aubrey Miller (AM), Kara Lavender Law (KL), Bruce Rayner (BR), Tim Trachimowicz (TT)

**Absent:** None

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

**Public/Guests:** No member of the public joined the meeting on-line

**Call to Order**

Matthew Faulkner (MF) called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

**Approval of March 5, 2020 Draft Meeting Minutes**

The March 5, 2020 meeting minutes were approved as written by a roll call vote.

**7 Yes, 0 No**

**Citizens Opportunity for Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda**

There were not citizens that joined the meeting on-line to comment

**Finalize 2019 Committee Goals**

MF reviewed the Committee goals that were agreed to at the March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting by the members present. The proposed 2020 Committee goals are as follows:

- Refocus education and outreach efforts from the schools to the library.
- Change the emphasis from recycling to composting in the school system.
- Complete the welcome packet for new residents.
- Communicate with Peter Esposito (Director of School Food Services) regarding the possibility of a switch from plastic to metal cutlery.
- Establish relationships with school administrative staff (Lisa Derman, Lauren Tarantino) that can help the Committee obtain better accessibility in the school system.
- Participate in annual Household Hazardous/E-Waste drop off event.
- Participate in annual Strawberry Festival event.
- Promote community Plogging events.

The Committee did not amend the goals as proposed. It was moved by JM and seconded by KL to approve the goals as proposed. Roll Call vote. **7 Yes, 0 No**

**Review of Applicable Sections of the Health & Sanitation Ordinance (Chapter 11) For any Redundancy with Recently Passed State of Maine Legislation (L.D. 1532 and L.D. 289)**

MF opened the discussion and introduced the item. There was a general discussion on any potential redundant language and/or intent incorporated into the passage of L.D. 1532 (An Act to Eliminate Single-use Plastic Carry-out Bags) and L.D. 289 (An Act to Prohibit the Use of Certain Disposable Food Service Containers) as it relates to the changes adopted in the Health and Sanitation Ordinance in 2017. Since the town's ordinance did not ban single-use carry out bags the passage of L.D. 1532 now prohibits the sale of them. The town did enact a ban on polystyrene foam, except for perishable food shipment and in an emergency. Since the passage of L.D. 289 essentially does the same that particular section in the town's ordinance may no longer be needed. After a brief discussion, MF agreed to draft a memo to the Town Manager identifying any language in the ordinance that could be stricken. This would then be forwarded to the Town Council for future consideration by the Ordinance Committee.

It was noted that the recent pandemic crisis had created the need by the Governor of the Maine to temporarily suspend the implementation of L.D. 1532 until January 15, 2021.

**Webpage, Communication and Social Media Update**

NB reported that she has refrained from posting on the Committee's Facebook page other than messages related to the closure of the Swap Shop and Bottle Redemption Building. She reported that she has received a quote from a company to print up the new Recycling Center brochures. There was a consensus that the price was higher than anticipated. RM offered to obtain a proposal from a vendor that Public Works utilizes and report back to the Committee. There was a discussion about the best way to distribute the brochure. Inserting the brochure in the Cape Courier would be the most preferable but would be costly. It was suggested that it could be handed out to patrons at the annual HHW/E-Waste Collection Day, which is now scheduled for November 7<sup>th</sup>. There was a request to have the document printed on recycled paper.

**Recycling Center Update – Bob**

RM reported that it's been very busy at the Recycling Center due to the many residents working and/or staying at home. There has been a substantial increase in the amount of cardboard coming into the facility due primarily to the increase in on-line shopping. There has also been an increase in the amount of household refuse, brush, leaves and yard waste also. RM expressed his sincere appreciation of the attendants who have endured some often intolerable weather conditions while operating the facility, which has not been closed during the pandemic crisis.

RM reported that fees have been waived until further notice for residents only to reduce the amount of personal interaction in the office area.

RM reported that Compactor #3 (located between Lanes 1 & 2) is normally only in service on Saturday's but has been now put in service on the remaining days of operation to better enable social distancing at the other compactors

RM reported that **ecomaine** had sent the April contamination report from the single-stream containers. The report mentioned low contamination rates and made positive

mention of the town's on-going efforts to address this issue. RM noted that the State's suspension of the plastic bag prohibition may result in some of those bags finding their way back into the single-stream containers. NB offered to post a message on Facebook to advise residents of the some disposal/recycling options for them.

RM reported again that the HHW/E-Waste Collection Day has been re-scheduled to Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and that the annual Paper Shredding event has been re-scheduled to Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

### **Committee Member Updates & Correspondence**

TT noted RM's impending retirement on July 31, 2020. RM reported that the Town Manager intends to advertise the position this month. RM thanked the current and past members of the Committee he has served with. He credited much of the success of Cape Elizabeth's voluntary recycling program to the efforts of the Recycling Committee.

TT suggested the June meeting be held outside (weather permitting) at the Public Works Facility in accordance with CDC-recommended social guidelines.

### **Other Business**

NB asked if the IGA accepted plastic single-use bags. AM noted that she has not observed a receptacle in the lobby.

BR said that Plogging activity has pretty much been on hold due to the pandemic crisis.

RM noted that he collected bags from three different residents that were collecting roadside trash on Earth Day.

### **Citizens Opportunity for Discussion of Items on the Agenda**

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

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Thursday, June 4, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert C. Malley  
Director of Public Works