

Town of Cape Elizabeth
Recycling Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2022

Present: Stephanie Austin (SA), Kara Lavender Law (KL), Eve Downing (ED), Tim Trachimowicz (TT), Jenna Pfueller (JP),

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

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

Public/Guests: Josh Dennison

1. Call to Order:

TT called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

2. Approval of October 6, 2022 Draft Meeting Minutes:

The October 6, 2022 meeting minutes were unanimously approved by the committee.
5 Yes, 0 No

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

Resident Josh Dennison spoke to several issues at the Recycling Center. Areas noted were staffing, hours of operation, safety, employee working conditions, signage, traffic circulation, and site redesign. Several committee members asked questions for more information on several topics. TT thanked Mr. Dennison for his comments.

4. School Recycling Discussion:

School Superintendent Chris Record was unable to attend the meeting and the committee indicated rescheduling his attendance for a future date.

5. Bottle Donations Program:

TT began the discussion with regards to the bottle donations program. JR gave an overview of the materials included in the agenda packet. JR also gave a summary of applications and total funds requested for this year and the previous year. JR also noted several specific items on the applications spreadsheet. The committee discussed funding and potential awarding of funds to the applicants. The committee also discussed whether late submissions would be considered. JR noted that the previous committee had denied applications that were submitted past the due date. It was also noted that one group was denied funding last year due to their tax status. The committee discussed online versus paper applications. The committee further discussed several methods to potentially utilize in future years. This methodology may be needed where applicant funding requests exceed the funding balance. Several options for prioritizing/ranking applications were discussed, including: cost-per-child ratio, dollar amount requested versus a group's operating budget, and a proportional percentage of funding distributed amongst all applicants. The committee agreed to further discuss these options at future meetings and before next year's application cycle. The committee agreed to continue discussing the topic and possibly decide on awarding the funding at the December meeting.

6. Outreach, Communications, and Social Media:

ED discussed the Q+A series that has been set up with the Cape Courier. The Courier has deferred the last few articles, as they have been focusing their latest issues on other topics. ED stated that the Courier may run the next article in their upcoming November 23rd issue.

SA noted that the Courier has prepared an article regarding the Apparel Impact program and will be included in an upcoming issue as well.

SA and ED discussed the establishment of a Cape Recycles Instagram page.

7. Committee Updates and Correspondence:

JP elaborated on her research regarding the “Freedge” program. The concept is a refridgerator that can be accessed to donate and receive food. JP found that there are three established in Maine. Donations are received from various busineesses, such as Sam’s Club. JP noted that they are 24/7 accessible, and have video surveillance, a canopy, and other amenities. The committee discussed potential locations, use, logistics, and volunteer needs to operate the program. KL suggested contacting Judy’s Pantry and/or Jordan Farm for potential partnerships. TT noted other options as well.

JP announced that she had discussions with Allagash Brewing, who has expressed interest in the water bottle filling station project at Fort Williams Park. KL outlined the filling station costs and the committee discussed the project finances. SA noted that the Portland Water District will presumably review and respond to the grant application in January. The committee also discussed returning to the Fort Williams Park Committee for an update.

8. Recycling Center Update: JR discussed the recent activities, including the mobile shredding service and the fall extended hours. JR also noted that the Town’s annual household hazardous waste day is scheduled for Saturday, November 5th, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. TT asked about the web posting of the extended hours at the Recycling Center. JR to follow up with the Town’s webmaster regarding a possible glitch that may have prohibited this posting.

9. Other Business: JR showed a short video developed for the school project, which includes a reference to solid waste and recycling opportunities in the new school project’s conceptual design.

10. Citizens Opportunity for Discussion of Items on the Agenda

None

11. Adjourn: The committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:05 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Jay Reynolds