

Town of Cape Elizabeth
Recycling Committee
Virtual Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2021

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: Matthew Faulkner (MF), Jennifer MacDonald (JM), Aubrey Miller (AM), Kara Lavender Law (KL), Tim Trachimowicz (TT), Bruce Rayner (BR), Stephanie Austin (SA)

Absent: n/a

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

Public/Guests: No members of the public joined the online meeting.

1. Call to Order:

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

2. Approval of the February 4, 2021 Draft Meeting Minutes:

The February 4, 2021 meeting minutes were approved as submitted by a roll call vote.

7 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. Review and Adoption of Committee Goals for 2021:

As a follow up to the last committee meeting, the committee continued the discussion regarding their goals for 2021. TT noted that the draft goals were concise and that they capture the committee's previous discussions and recommendations. TT offered one change to the goal regarding the Extended Producer packaging legislation (change back to 'recommend', from 'consider'). BR agreed that this change makes sense. The committee agreed to finalize the goals as discussed.

5. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging Law:

TT noted that the Town Council has been interested in this subject. At recent Town Council meetings, they received a presentation from Chrissy at Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM). More recently, the Council discussed this item and have placed it on their March 8th meeting to consider approving the resolution language that NRCM has provided. JR provided attachments that provided this background and detail. One attachment included a request from the Council for any comments or recommendations from the Recycling Committee prior to their meeting on March 8th. MF made a motion that the Recycling Committee recommends that the Town Council endorse and support the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging

Law. The motion was seconded by JM. The motion carried by a vote of a 6 approved, 0 opposed, 1 abstained. KL briefly elaborated on the reasoning for her abstaining from the vote.

6. Committee Member Updates & Correspondence:

Water Filling Stations: KL discussed the committee goal of installing water filling stations in public facilities. KL noted that she contacted Community Services Director Kathy Raftice to discuss this item. The discussion surrounded the ongoing effort of the Fort Williams Park (FWP) Committee, who are in the process of updating the master plan for the park. It was reported that the FPW Committee is interested in hearing more regarding the water filling stations. MF inquired about the potential timeline for the grant. KL elaborated that applications are due in October, therefore this would be a 2022 project at the earliest. KL noted this project could be a ‘stand-alone project’ at Fort Williams Park and could be used for a model for additional locations. TT also recommended finding one site, and using the installation as a model for other locations. MF elaborated more on the grant funding requirements. SA discussed the grant writing process, and the ability to easily duplicate a grant application once the first grant is written or applied for.

TML Recycles: AM updated the committee regarding the Thomas Memorial Library and their willingness to include a stamp on their reusable bags. AM noted that the latest version of the stamp was included as an attachment for reference. KL, JM, and the committee as a whole like the design. AM reported she will let the Library know that the stamp looks good and can proceed to be added to the bags.

Community Conversations: TT noted that he watched the recently recorded meeting hosted by the Library. TT watched it to gain better insight to the meeting format and how the Recycling Committee might present a recycling topic in the future. The presentation was delivered by the Town’s Energy Committee. He noted the content was very technical in nature. KL asked if the committee presented or whether it was presented by a consultant or other entity. TT noted the committee hosted the presentation. AM noted that the timing of Earth Day in April may present an opportunity to have relevant content discussed. The entire committee discussed the logistics of a potential presentation, including but not limited to, the use of Ecomaine, Natural Resources Council of Maine, and other resources. MF noted the concern of attendance. JR noted that the presentation, if recorded, could be viewed later if attendance was light. SA offered to assist with developing content for the presentation. JM offered to contact Ecomaine staff for resources and assistance. SA suggested the committee find out from the Library whether outside presenters would be acceptable. AM offered to follow up with the Library. BR suggested that statistics, specific to Cape Elizabeth, be included in the presentation. JR noted that he does have some historical data that can be provided.

Bottle Donations: TT asked about the program and process that the Town and the sub-committee previously followed. JR noted that he could obtain said information from the Town Clerk. TT offered to contact the Town Clerk directly to collect any background information that will help the committee develop new protocols for funding disbursement.

MF reported on recent social media content and posts. He also mentioned that the Town’s webmaster reached out to him about developing an article of some kind.

7. Recycling Center Update:

JR noted that he is proceeding with hiring the vacant Recycling Center attendant position. JR provided a historical recycling rate graph in the meeting attachments. The historical recycling rate was discussed by the committee.

MF requested that JR forward along the monthly reports provided by Ecomaine.

8. Other Business:

There was no other business discussed.

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

No members of the public joined the meeting.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Thursday, April 1st, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Reynolds