

Town of Cape Elizabeth
Recycling Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 2, 2020

Present: Chair, Matthew Faulkner (MF), Nicole Boucher (NB), Kara Lavender Law (KL), Aubrey Miller (AM), Jennifer MacDonald (JM)

Absent: Tim Trachimowicz (TT)

Staff: Robert Malley (RM), Director of Public Works (absent due to illness)

Public/Guests: None

Call to Order: Matthew Faulkner (MF) called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM.

Approval of December 5, 2019 Draft Meeting Minutes

The December 5, 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

Election of Chair for 2020

KL made a motion to nominate Matthew Faulkner to be Chair for a second term in 2020. Motion seconded by AM. Approved (5 Yes, 0 No).

Review FOAA Requirements

Committee members reviewed the FOAA materials that were circulated as meeting materials to ensure understanding of the requirements for compliance.

Meeting Schedule for 2020

The following meeting dates were agreed via consensus for 2020:

February 6

March 5

April 2

May 2 – HHW/E-Waste Collection Day

June 4 and Strawberry Fest (June 27)

No Meeting in July

August 6

September 3

October 1

No meeting in November

December 3

Final review of updated Recycling Center Brochure – Nicole

NB shared a revised version of the Recycling Center brochure with the committee. NB will get a PDF of the document to MF for distribution to the Committee for a final review. NB said that the PDF will be posted on the committee website, and KL suggested that the Recycling Center map also be visible (as a stand-alone image) on the website. NB will request that the brochure be printed on recycled paper.

Review of 2019 Committee Goals

The committee noted good progress during 2019 on its stated goals, with some action taken on all major goals. It was noted that although a class was offered through Community Services on the changing recycling markets, this class was cancelled due to low enrollment. There was discussion about how to better reach the community to achieve outreach goals. NB suggested making videos to post on the Facebook page. One unmet 2019 goal was to collaborate with schools to replace plastic drinking straws with paper straws; KL suggested that this goal be moved to 2020. MF will ask RM about the format of a report on 2019 activities to submit to Town Council.

Preliminary Discussion of 2020 Committee Goals

There was agreement to keep the same three major goals as in 2019:

- Community education and outreach
- Offer collaboration and support for waste reduction and recycling to Cape Elizabeth schools
- Committee research to stay abreast of solid waste and recycling trends in Maine from the municipality to state level

Specific objectives under each major goal will be discussed at the February 6 meeting. Preliminary ideas include collaboration with the Thomas Memorial Library as a venue and partner in community outreach (suggested by AM), and collaboration with the Pond Cove Parents Association to reach parents of Pond Cove students. Suggested actions to reduce waste in Cape Elizabeth schools include working with the high school environmental club to eliminate plastic utensils and straws in all school cafeterias; working with the Director of Nutrition Services to replace condiment packets with bulk dispensers; promoting a Zero Waste Day; and focusing on proper composting in the cafeteria.

Webpage, Communication and Social Media Update – Nicole Boucher

NB reported that the Facebook feed now appears on the committee webpage, with thanks to Wendy Derzawiec for implementation. JM noted that ecomaine regularly posts videos on their Facebook page; NB plans to repost these on the committee page. NB plans to run another contest to giveaway a blue ecomaine recycling bin, and suggested that we run a poll asking followers what waste or recycling topic they would like to learn more about, to inform our community outreach efforts.

Recycling Center Update – Bob Malley

No update because RM was absent due to illness.

Committee Member Updates & Correspondence

KL commented that there seems to be a recent increase in correspondence from community members to RM and/or the recycling committee about topics of interest or concern.

Other Business

No other business was discussed.

Citizens Opportunity for Discussion of Items on the Agenda

There were no members of the public present.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Thursday, February 6, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kara Lavender Law
Committee member