

Town of Cape Elizabeth
Recycling Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2020

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

Absent: Kara Lavender Law (KL)

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

Public/Guests: Lisa Derman

Call to Order

Matthew Faulkner (MF) called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Committee members welcomed and introduced themselves to new member Bruce Rayner.

Approval of January 2, 2020 Draft Meeting Minutes

The January 2, 2020 meeting minutes were approved as written. **6 Yes, 0 No**

Citizens Opportunity for Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Lisa Derman, a recently retired second grade teacher, shared her thoughts with the committee regarding composting and recycling in the schools. She talked about her efforts and noted that busy teachers, though in favor of recycling and composting, do not want to put in wasted effort. Ms. Derman expressed concern that there is still a lack of accurate, trustworthy information, noting she would often be asked, “Does it really get recycled?” or “Does it really get composted?”

Committee members shared with Ms. Derman the committee’s efforts in the schools. The committee discussed at length the barriers to successful recycling at the schools, namely that recyclables are placed in plastic bags and the existing waste collection infrastructure prevents changing that practice. Committee members explained it will be important for the school building committee to keep these issues in mind when designing the new school buildings.

The committee discussed the fact that composting currently works well at the schools and there may be possibilities for expansion if contracts allow. Ms. Derman shared her idea of providing each classroom with a compost bowl that could be emptied into a large compost bin in each hallway.

There were discussions about the pros and cons of compostable silverware, the effectiveness of encouraging parents to limit single-use food containers, the impact of including school recycling costs in the school budget, and possibilities for creating green teams in the schools. Ms. Derman also noted the many challenges with recycling and composting in the cafeteria. In particular, the youngest students struggle with sorting their

items while holding their trays. They would benefit from stations where they could set their trays down, but there are space limitations that cannot be remedied until the new school buildings are built.

Ms. Derman asked the committee to let her know if she can be helpful. Committee members thanked her for coming to the meeting.

Follow Up on Reporting of 2019 Committee Goals

MF will ask RM about the format of a report on 2019 activities to submit to Town Council.

Continued Discussion of 2020 Committee Goals

JM mentioned the possibility of committee members serving on the green team for the Beach to Beacon. BR said they always need help. MF commented it would be good for the committee to have another annual event.

AM said she thought it would be helpful for the committee to document all the work the committee has done regarding recycling in the schools, making note of infrastructure and other barriers, what possibilities the committee has researched, what the barriers are to the various options, etc. She noted that MF in particular has done a lot of work that should be recorded to ensure the information is documented and can be easily referenced in the future. TT suggested adding an agenda item at the next meeting to talk through all the points the committee would want to include in the document.

MF explained to the committee that JM had sent him an email after Katrina Bussiere-Venhuizen of ecomaine held a recycling lunch-and-learn event at her offices. JM thought it would be useful to have a similar session at the library to educate residents. The committee discussed the best time at which to hold such an event and how to get people to attend. Ultimately the committee agreed to have Katrina communicate directly with the library to plan the event.

Webpage, Communication and Social Media Update

NB shared quotes she obtained for printing the new recycling brochure. NB will connect with RM regarding printing.

NB said people seem to know about the Recycling Committee Facebook page. Someone just asked about the Household Hazardous Waste & E-Waste Collection event.

Committee Member Updates & Correspondence

AM brought up the email RM forwarded to the committee from Donna Wolfram back in December with the subject "District Goals - Invitation to edit." The Environmental Responsibility goal states that the school department will prioritize environmental responsibility, including stewardship and sustainability. AM commented she thought it would be beneficial to add "both in the education of students and the operation of facilities" at the end. The committee agreed.

Other Business

MF mentioned that he and NB would be sending out a Doodle poll to organize committee member volunteering at the Household Hazardous Waste & E-Waste Collection event. NB explained the event to BR.

Citizens Opportunity for Discussion of Items on the Agenda

There were no members of the public present.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Thursday, April 2, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aubrey Miller
Committee member