

**Town of Cape Elizabeth
Recycling Committee
Virtual Meeting Minutes
June 4, 2020**

<https://meet.google.com/zjy-ymbi-okw>

Ability to join by phone: 1-317-732-7389 (PIN: 702734893#)

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

Absent: Nicole Boucher (NB)

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 7:08 PM.

Approval of May 7, 2020 Draft Meeting Minutes

The May 7, 2020 meeting minutes were approved as written by a roll call vote.

5 Yes, 0 No (BR joined the meeting at 7:20 so he did not participate in this vote)

Citizens Opportunity for Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

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

Discuss draft of correspondence to the Town Manager related to Applicable Sections of the Health & Sanitation Ordinance (Chapter 11) being redundant 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 how to address the request since the State of Maine legislation now bans plastic bags, which the town's ordinance did not, and states that beginning April 22, 2020 (now delayed to January 15, 2021), any local ordinance or regulation that violates this subsection is void and has no force or effect.

KL suggested the committee consult with Town Manager Matt Sturgis about the appropriate administrative path to comply with the State mandate that State legislation supersede the local ordinance on plastic bags.

MF also noted that the State legislation regarding polystyrene foam packaging differs from the local ordinance in that it also bans plastic stirrers, but the State legislation does not have the same language about voiding existing local ordinances. The Committee discussed whether or not to alter the existing local ordinance, or to replace it with the State legislation. The consensus was to adopt the State legislation.

RM suggested meeting with the Town Council in a workshop format to discuss the recommendation and get further direction about how to address local ordinances if State legislation is adopted. KL noted that a workshop may not be needed, if the Town Council agrees with the Committee recommendation.

RM will reach out to Town Manager Matt Sturgis and facilitate a meeting with MF to discuss the recommendation and the appropriate administrative next steps.

Following a general discussion it was moved and seconded to recommend that the Town adopt both pieces of State legislation (on plastic bags and polystyrene foam) and to work with the Town Manager to identify the administrative path to assist the Committee with the ordinance revision.

Motion was moved and seconded: 6 Yes 0 No

Webpage, Communication and Social Media Update

NB was unable to attend the meeting to provide an update. RM reported that he has received a quote from Xpress Copy to print up the new Recycling center brochure. Funds are available in the current budget (FY 2020) to get the brochure printed on 100% recycled paper. RM will get the brochures printed and contact the Cape Courier and get the brochure inserted into a future edition.

Recycling Center Update – Bob

RM reported that it continues to be very busy at the Recycling Center due to the many residents working and/or staying at home. He reported that there continues to be an increase in household refuse, corrugated cardboard, bulky waste, yard waste, brush and wood waste.

He reported that fees have been waived to reduce the interaction between staff and customers and to control social distancing in the office. AM asked if this had an impact on the budget. RM replied it did but feels there are other potential savings in the budget to offset the temporary loss in revenue.

He also noted that the closure of the Swap Shop has contributed to the increase in bulky waste tonnage. There have been some requests from residents to open the building. RM has responded that it would be impossible to manage social distancing without staff both inside and outside the building.

KL suggested people could donate items from a social media platform.

There was a suggestion from one of the Swap Shop volunteers to place the bottle redemption carts outside so they could be made available. RM said that he was concerned about theft if they were left outside overnight but would take it under advisement.

KL asked RM when his position will be posted. RM stated that the Town Manager has been busy with issues related to the revision of the FY 2021 budget and the management of municipal facilities during the Covid-19 pandemic. RM was confident that the position would be posted in the coming week.

Committee Member Updates & Correspondence

There were none provided by the members participating in the meeting.

Other Business

KL reported that she was going to participate in a webinar on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation. She will share any applicable information at the next meeting. She also asked MF what the Committee would be working on for the remainder

of the year. MF suggested the goals could be reviewed but interaction with the schools could be a problem given the uncertainty with the format of the fall opening. BR suggested that the Committee could set up a joint meeting with a Recycling Committee in an adjacent community, such as South Portland. The idea was well received.

Citizens Opportunity for Discussion of Items on the Agenda

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 PM

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert C. Malley
Director of Public Works