

Town of Cape Elizabeth
Recycling Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 5, 2023

Present: Stephanie Austin (SA), Tim Trachimowicz (TT), Jennifer MacDonald (JM), Eve Downing (ED), Jenna Pfueller (JP), Greg Stewart (GS), Becky Fernald (BF)

Absent: N/A

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

Public/Guests: Representatives of the Cape Elizabeth High School Speech and Debate Team

1. Call to Order:

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

- 2. Welcome and Introductions:** Existing Committee members welcomed new members Greg Stewart and Becky Fernald to the Committee. Each member provided introductions and information regarding their backgrounds.

3. Approval of December 1, 2022 Draft Meeting Minutes:

The December 1, 2022 meeting minutes were amended and unanimously approved by the committee.

7 Yes, 0 No

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

Tess Straw spoke on behalf of the High School Speech and Debate Team. Tess Straw elaborated on how important the grant funding provided from the bottle shed program is to their youth group. Tess Straw thanked the committee for their support and for the recently-approved grant funding from the bottle shed donations program. The committee thanked them for attending the meeting and providing their comments.

5. Freedom of Access:

JR provided a brief summary of the information and attachments provided regarding Freedom of Access. JR also elaborated on the noticing requirements for public meetings, and also discussed email correspondence outside of committee meetings.

- 6. New Committee Chair:** It was noted that TT has served two consecutive years as the chair of the Recycling Committee, therefore, a new member must serve as chair. The committee discussed the topic and deferred action to a future meeting.

- 7. Meeting Schedule:** JR provided a draft meeting schedule for the committee. The committee discussed the events that may serve as substitutes for the typical roundtable meeting format. The committee discussed the Strawberry Festival and several members indicated that this event was great for community outreach. SA also provided positive feedback with regards to the annual 5k at the schools in May. JR to update the schedule as discussed.

8. Committee Goals: TT outlined the background of the committee's goals. TT went through the 2022 goals, and the committee discussed keeping many of them for 2023. Several specific items were discussed, including social media, water filling stations, EPR legislation, Ecomaine open house events/field trips, and school recycling. School recycling and the future building project was discussed in further detail. JR suggested promoting an upcoming state-wide food waste reduction program, which would fall under existing committee goals.

9. Outreach, Communications, and Social Media:

SA discussed the Cape Recycles social media platforms and discussed the development of several "Is it Recyclable?" posts. The committee reviewed several options and generally favored the image-based approach. JM offered to send SA the Cape Recycles logo for the Instagram account. BF inquired about whether there is still an ongoing contamination issue with recycling and whether some outreach may be needed. TT provided some historical information regarding school contamination rates. JR provided information pertaining to contamination from the Recycling Center. ED discussed the "Let's Talk Recycling" effort with the Cape Courier. ED plans on re-engaging with the Courier in preparation of future articles.

10. Committee Updates and Correspondence:

TT noted that former recycling Committee member Kara Law contacted him regarding an article about "TerraCycle". This organization provides free recycling programs, with an interest in recycling clothing. SA offered to research this further. TT also noted that Kara Law is planning on continuing to work on the water bottle filling station and potentially meet with the Fort Williams Park Advisory Committee at a future date. TT noted that the bottle shed grant award letters were sent out in December. JR noted that checks have not been distributed to the recipients. JR to follow up with the Finance Department. SA discussed the volunteer sign-up document and will forward to JR.

11. Recycling Center Update: JR provided a brief update of the Recycling Center operations.

12. Other Business: The committee further discussed other items that could be related to committee goals, such as plastics reduction efforts and the "Go-Go Refill" business model. The committee further discussed plastics reduction.

JM offered to assume the role of the Recycling Committee chair. ED made a motion to nominate Jennifer MacDonald as the Recycling Committee chair. The motion was seconded by GS. The motion passed unanimously.

13. Citizens Opportunity for Discussion of Items on the Agenda

None

14. Adjourn: The committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:15 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Jay Reynolds