

Town of Cape Elizabeth
Recycling Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2023

Present: Stephanie Austin (SA), Jennifer MacDonald (JM), Eve Downing (ED), Greg Stewart (GS), Becky Fernald (BF)

Absent: Tim Trachimowicz (TT), Jenna Pfueller (JP)

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

Public/Guests: None

1. Call to Order:

JM called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Approval of January 5, 2023 Draft Meeting Minutes:

The January 5, 2023 meeting minutes were amended and unanimously approved by the committee.

5 Yes, 0 No

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

None

- 4. Meeting Schedule:** The committee discussed the previously drafted meeting schedule. The committee discussed the events that may serve as substitutes for the typical roundtable meeting format. The committee discussed the Strawberry Festival. If it were to be held for the first time since 2019, then the event would be a good one for the committee to attend. The annual 5k at the schools was also attended last year by the committee. The committee agreed to substitute the July regular meeting with the Strawberry Festival, pending the outcome of whether it reconvenes this year. The committee also agreed to provide a presence at the 5k event in May, but not substitute this event for a regular meeting.

- 5. Committee Goals:** The committee briefly discussed the committee's goals. An updated version has been prepared by TT, however, he was unavailable to attend the meeting. The materials were not able to be posted in time for the meeting. As such, the committee agreed to defer a detailed discussion about the goals until the March meeting.

6. Outreach, Communications, and Social Media:

ED discussed the "Let's Talk Recycling" effort with the Cape Courier. ED has re-engaged with the Courier in preparation of future articles. ED provided details to the specifics of some of the upcoming articles, such as food waste, battery recycling, styrofoam, et cetera. A monthly article schedule and outline was discussed in further detail.

The committee also discussed the possibility and logistics of having an Ecomaine field trip.

BF discussed the possibility of an earth day event in April. The committee mentioned former committee member Bruce Rayner's efforts with regards to trash cleanup and

the annual ‘plogging event’. JR elaborated on other spring-time cleanup efforts throughout town that involve other interested groups, such as the Land Trust. Social media updates were also discussed.

7. Committee Updates and Correspondence:

JM began the discussion regarding the water bottle filling station project. SA announced that the Town was not awarded the grant from the Portland Water District. JM updated the committee on progress that former recycling Committee member Kara Law has made with the Fort Williams Park Advisory Committee. JM conveyed that the Fort Williams Park Advisory Committee is interested in pursuing several new filling stations within the park in phases over the next several years. It was noted that there is an upcoming Fort Williams Park Advisory Committee meeting where the filling stations are scheduled to be discussed. The committee discussed having a representative attend.

8. Recycling Center Update: JR provided a brief update of the Recycling Center operations. JR also noted that he is receiving and compiling 2022 data and will provide the committee with some statistical recycling center information at the March meeting.

9. Other Business: JM discussed the Cape Challenge 5k and providing another recycling-themed prize basket. The committee discussed various options, including participation/donations from local businesses.

BF asked if the committee could provide some background to the school recycling program and historical efforts by the Recycling Committee to assist in promoting recycling efforts in the school system. JM elaborated on past efforts made by the committee. BF suggested a new avenue may be in recycling as an educational topic for students.

10. Citizens Opportunity for Discussion of Items on the Agenda

None

11. Adjourn: The committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:20 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Jay Reynolds