

**Town of Cape Elizabeth
Recycling Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 6, 2025**

Present: Becky Fernald (BF), Tim Trachimowicz (TT), Stephanie Austin (SA), Greg Stewart (GS), Jenna Pfueller (JP), Nina Trowbridge (NT)

Absent: n/a

Staff: Jay Reynolds (JR)

Public/Guests: none

1. Call to Order

SA called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm

2. Approval of January 2, 2025 Draft Meeting Minutes:

The January 2, 2025 meeting minutes unanimously approved by the committee.

6 Yes, 0 No

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

None

4. Review of Committee Goals

JR provided an updated list of goals, based on comments by the committee at their January meeting. The Committee reviewed the goals for 2025. A motion was made to approve the goals. The motion was seconded and was approved unanimously (6-0).

5. Q+A Series

The committee discussed the Cape Courier and the Q+A series, which was led by former committee member Eve Downing. The committee continued the discussion from last meeting, which was how to continue in the future with the Q+A series. GS noted the enclosed article in the New York Times regarding recycling. The committee also discussed other negative feedback regarding messaging. GS suggested a future article about where Cape Elizabeth's recycling items go, possibly titled "Where does it go?". SA: discussed Ecomaine's online information as an

example. SA suggested a summary as to where each product goes. The committee agreed that providing this detail to the residents would be a good effort in addressing the recycling “naysayers”.

SA noted that Apparel Impact also has good information on their website.

JR offered to assist with compiling some initial information about the recycled products collected at the Recycling Center.

NT: discussed the food waste dropoff at the Recycling Center. GS noted the food waste totals of approximately 100 tons, and the estimated amount of 25% of food in the waste stream, could equate to approximately 400 tons.

NT discussed the committee tour at Ecomaine, which is one of the 2025 goals. NT to work on organizing a date with Ecomaine and the committee. JP to talk to Jamie Garvin at Ecomaine. SA noted that the tour schedule is on Ecomaine’s webpage.

BF: discussed food waste recycling and how other states like Massachusetts are leading the way with food waste recycling. Also, other countries such as Sweden rely heavily on reuse by limiting/discouraging new purchases. BF to circulate a digital copy of the Boston Globe article to the committee.

The committee also discussed volunteering efforts to write an article for the spring.

6. Outreach, Communications, and Social Media

JP announced that a date for this year’s clothing swap has been set for May 3rd. JP noted this date is later in the spring than prior events, which may result in increased donations and participation.

BF: Updated the committee regarding the school composting project. BF and SA met in February with the elementary school administrative staff to discuss the 4th grade participation. Staff are continuing to work out the logistics and work around the tight schedule at lunch time. It was also noted that a 4th grade “helpers program” is starting, which may be helpful with regards to the recycling efforts. BF discussed younger students who are successfully recycling in other areas of country. BF and SA are planning to help with training with teachers in the helpers program. NT to join in meeting with teachers.

JR mentioned that the City of South Portland’s sustainability department contacted him regarding the Town’s swap shop. A future meeting is getting scheduled to discuss this topic.

7. Committee Member Updates and Correspondence

Nothing additional to any previously discussed topics.

8. Recycling Center Update

JR provided the committee with several updated graphs that reflect historical recycling weights and percentages. JR reviewed them with the committee. JR also shared the Apparel Impact 2024 annual report. JR to forward graphs to JP for social media posts.

9. Other Business

TT: Noted that last year's bottle shed grant award poster is still posted at the bottle shed. TT will work on getting a new one drafted and printed. TT to notify ED to get last year's template. JR noted that he is still working on making contact with two youth groups to finalize their tax paperwork for reimbursement. TT and the committee discussed the award letters, signups for volunteering. TT will send Susana a notice for a website announcement regarding the 2025 recipients.

10. Citizens Opportunity to Discuss Items on the Agenda.

None.

11. Adjourn: The Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:56 pm.