Town of Cape Elizabeth
Recycling Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2024

Present: Greg Stewart (GS), Becky Fernald (BF), Eve Downing (ED), Tim Trachimowicz (TT), Stephanie Austin (SA), 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. The committee welcomed new committee member Nina Trowbridge (NT) and introduced themselves.

2. **Approval of January 4, 2024 Draft Meeting Minutes:**

   The January 4, 2024 meeting minutes were amended and unanimously approved by the committee.

   7 Yes, 0 No

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

   No citizens present.

4. **Pay as you Throw Discussion**

   SA initiated a discussion around pay-as-you-throw (PAYT) programs. The committee discussed various aspects of solid waste and recycling as it relates to PAYT. Topics included food waste diversion, "Freedge" community refrigerator programs, and how PAYT incentivizes recycling. It was suggested that a higher fee or tag system be implemented at the recycling center in lieu of a PAYT program. The concern of timing with a new fee or program, as it relates to other Town needs, was discussed. It was also noted that a new program of this nature would need Town Council support in order to move forward. The committee discussed performing initial research and benchmarking with regards to other municipalities, their respective PAYT programs and recycling rates.

5. **Committee Goals**

   The committee reviewed the draft 2024 goals and made several edits. JR elaborated on a new Town Council goal that tasks the Recycling Committee with monitoring the progress of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program. JR to revise the goals list per the edits discussed and provide a final version at the next meeting. The committee unanimously approved the goals as amended.

6. **Outreach, Communications, and Social Media:**

JP announced that the next clothing swap at the library is tentatively scheduled for April 27th. JP will send out notifications for the event. The committee discussed placing an ad in the Cape Courier, as well as providing outreach through the High School Parents Association. The committee discussed the logistics of the event.

ED presented to the committee the new signage regarding the food waste diversion at the Recycling Center. Several edits were discussed along with sizing and placement. ED to revise the signage and circulate to the committee. JR to review the mounting/installation options.

JP provided a summary of recent social media posts and feedback.

7. **Committee Updates and Correspondence:**

GS updated the committee on the subject of school recycling. GS attended a School Building Advisory Committee meeting, where he was able to provide comments. GS advocated for any building remodeling to have considerations for staff and the logistics to support solid waste, recycling, and food waste diversion.

SA noted that she had been in contact with Tom Farmer at the School, who indicated their environmental club is performing a limited level of composting on campus, and that there are some logistical challenges that hinder progress.

TT updated the committee on several items, including website cleanup and the bottle donations program.

JR noted that he received notice from NRCM that there is state legislation proposed that involves the ability for businesses to utilize reusable food storage containers.

8. **Recycling Center Update**

JR provided a brief update that included: staffing, new signage, and other operational details.

9. **Other Business**

BF and the committee discussed Earth Day events.

BF discussed mattress recycling and offered to perform more research on this topic.

SA and the committee discussed the recent ocean plastics presentation, which has led to a new effort to participate in a plastic film recycling program. SA outlined the proposed program, which is proposed to be implemented at the Library. Committee members offered to assist as needed.

GS noted that another topic, such as Extended Producer Responsibility, may be considered for another Library event in the summer.

10. Citizens Opportunity for Discussion of Items on the Agenda:

None

11. Adjourn: The committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Reynolds