

**Town of Cape Elizabeth**  
**Recycling Committee**  
Meeting Minutes  
April 7, 2022

**Present:** Stephanie Austin (SA), Jennifer MacDonald (JM), Kara Lavender Law (KL), Eve Downing (ED), Jenna Pfueller (JP), Bruce Rayner (BR)

**Absent:** Tim Trachimowicz (TT)

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

**Public/Guests:** None

**1. Call to Order**

KL called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

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

No members of the public were in attendance.

**3. Approval of March 3, 2022 Draft Meeting Minutes**

The March 3, 2022 meeting minutes were approved as submitted by a roll call vote.

**6 Yes, 0 No**

**4. Q&A Series:** The committee discussed ED's proposal to begin a Q&A series with common questions about recycling, which could be published in the Cape Courier and/or on the Committee webpage or Facebook page. ED inquired about an appropriate contact at Ecomaine to discuss their top questions they receive with regards to recycling. JR suggested reaching out to their outreach coordinator, Katrina Venhuisen. ED asked if committee members would be willing to send her their top three questions to be considered for the program. ED will consolidate them and once they have all been received. SA mentioned that the Courier has seasonal themes with regards to their articles, and that the questions could be tailored to certain times of year and seasonal events. Christmas and wrapping paper was cited as an example. The committee agreed to forward their preferred questions to ED. ED offered to set up a shared file for use.

**5. Committee Goals:** The 2022 committee goals were finalized in March. The draft goals were circulated and briefly discussed at the meeting. The 2022 Recycling Committee goals were approved unanimously by a roll call vote (6 Yes, 0 No).

**6. Committee Updates and Correspondence:**

JM mentioned that the committee had previously purchased tee-shirts for members and inquired if any were left over. JR noted he had not seen any at Public Works. JM offered to assist with reordering them for new members. BR discussed the environmentally-unfriendly aspects of the production of tee-shirts and recommended some eco-friendly alternative options. The committee agreed to pursue this alternative approach.

KL discussed the Cape Challenge 5k and 1-Miler event and whether the committee can participate in some way. The event is on June 5<sup>th</sup>. KL and BR suggested that some recycling outreach or race sustainability could be useful topics for this event.

KL noted that the Courier announced that the High School environmental group that previously existed has reformed. SA offered to reach out to school contacts to find out more.

KL noted that she has reached out to Kathy Raftice regarding the bottle filling station at Fort Williams Park. The committee discussed possible next steps regarding the project, which included the potential for private donors in lieu of the Portland Water District Grant. JP offered to assist with reaching out to other potential sponsors. SA discussed the next round of applications and the reapplication process. KL asked if the 2021 application could be redistributed at the next meeting. SA offered to provide it. KL offered to redistribute a photo representation of the proposal for the benefit of new committee members.

7. **Recycling Center Update:** JR provided several documents to the committee, which included statistical information regarding the Town's single-stream recycling and trash tonnages. JR outlined the graph provided and explained the recycling rate/percentages. The committee reviewed the statistics and discussed specific movements in recycling rates over the last twenty years. The committee also discussed the food waste diversion and how that relates to the solid waste totals and recycling rate. JR also provided 2021 totals for the new Paint Care recovery program and also provided current-year information for single-stream and paint recycling.
8. **Other Business:** The committee discussed the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust's earth day cleanup program that is being launched. BR discussed his efforts towards the Plogging event that he organizes. JR noted that the CELT has a website for residents to sign up for weekend cleanup events. JR also elaborate that the website also has designated locations for trash collection and drop-off. SA suggested getting more committee exposure to the community by creating an annual "Recycling Hero" program. JR noted that Ecomaine has a similar program that is known as the Eco-Excellence Award. JR suggested that the committee could nominate a person, group, or business annually for this award. KL mentioned the previous idea of inviting the new School Superintendent to a recycling committee meeting. ED provided information and an update regarding the Cape 'Buy Nothing/Sell Nothing' Page that was created during covid. The committee discussed upcoming community events, such as family fun day and the strawberry festival. KL offered to find out whether the strawberry festival is planned for 2022 and report back to the committee.

**9. Citizens Opportunity for Discussion of Items on the Agenda**

No members of the public were in attendance.

**10. Adjourn:** The committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:33 PM

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Thursday, May 5, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jay Reynolds