

Town of Cape Elizabeth
Recycling Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 1, 2025

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

Absent: n/a

Staff: Jay Reynolds (JR)

Public/Guests: none

1. Call to Order

SA called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm

The committee started with introductions and welcomed new member Melissa Kim (MK).

2. Approval of March 6, 2025 Draft Meeting Minutes:

The March 6, 2025 meeting minutes unanimously approved by the committee.

7 Yes, 0 No

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

None

4. 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. JR provided a spreadsheet that outlines where most items at the recycling centers go once it leaves the recycling center. The committee discussed the value of providing this information to residents through the Facebook page, the Town Website, and the Cape Courier. The committee discussed costs associated with each waste stream. MK: asked what the top 3 messages we want to achieve in the Q+A articles. The committee discussed the recycling list and potential messaging further.

5. Outreach, Communications, and Social Media

JP: noted that the “Cape Fest’ is scheduled for June 7th. The Recycling mascot will be in attendance. The committee discussed potential handouts for the festival. NT: asked about hosting a table at cape fest. SA: noted that historically the groups involve an activity or game in order to host a table. SA: noted the committee hosts a table at cape challenge 5k run. The committee discussed the logistics regarding this year’s Cape Challenge again. JP to reach out to Cape Fest event organizer to discuss a table and discuss logistics.

TT: Noted that the Town has a new website. The new website layout was discussed, along with the recycling committee page. The committee discussed working with the webmaster to update the related pages, add the bottle shed grant 2024 awardees, and other edits.

JP: Noted that the clothing swap this Saturday and that many volunteers to help set up. There is still a need for volunteers to break down afterward. It was noted that the library is receiving a good amount of donations. The committee discussed needing bagging help and distribution to Maine Needs, Apparel Impact, and other destinations. The committee discussed their availability and time slots for volunteering.

6. Committee Member Updates and Correspondence

BF: Updated the committee regarding composting efforts at the school. SA and BF met with 4th grade ‘helpers’ and providing training. The committee discussed specific details regarding the school’s efforts and accomplishments to date. BF offered to reach back out to further assist with any follow-up needs. NT: to reach out to Tom Farmer to discuss composting efforts at the High School.

JP: discussed the email attachment in the meeting agenda, which is in regards to the public tours at Ecomaine. The maximum number of participants is 24 for adults, with a 14-day notice requirement. SA suggested the event be advertised through community services. JR offered to cover cost of the transportation if needed.

JP: noted that a Clynk tour may also be possibility in the future. JP: also noted that Goodwill offers tours at their Gorham location.

SA noted that the Ecomaine tour options are on Fridays, either at 10:00 am or 1:00 PM. The committee coordinated their individual availability to determine the best time and date to schedule the tour.

7. Recycling Center Update

JR provided an update regarding the EPR for packaging legislation and also a new bill proposed that rolls back some of the previously adopted rules.

JR also noted that Ecomaine may be providing a presentation to town council in the next month or two. JR also provided an update regarding the Solar Project.

TT: asked about the electronic/credit card payment option at Recycling Center, JR: had no updates regarding the process or timeline for implementation.

8. Other Business

TT: Noted that in the past, the committee has periodically ordered t-shirts for events and new members. TT to reach out to a former committee member who previously managed the orders. TT and MK to work on the design. The committee discussed printing/t-shirt companies.

BF: discussed the volunteer signups at the bottle shed. TT to send a reminder email to the recipients of the bottle shed grants. NT: asked about how many shifts were expected. TT noted that the expectation has been one-per-group. SA updated the committee on active/current signups for 2025.

9. Citizens Opportunity to Discuss Items on the Agenda.

None.

10. Adjourn: The Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:43 pm.