

**Town of Cape Elizabeth
Recycling Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 2, 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: Chriss Sutherland

1. Call to Order:

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

2. Approval of March 7, 2024 Draft Meeting Minutes:

The March 7, 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:

Chriss Sutherland, a middle school teacher, spoke with regards to school recycling efforts. Chriss Sutherland and the committee discussed the current recycling efforts at both the high school and middle school. Topics discussed were food waste, bottle/can recycling, Clynk, and single-stream recycling. Many of the former and current challenges surrounding the long-term success of recycling efforts were discussed. The committee offered support in various ways, including providing contacts in the community who may be able to volunteer their time to assist in the schools. The committee offered to help coordinate a stakeholder meeting with various interested parties at the school to discuss recycling efforts further.

4. Outreach, Communications, and Social Media:

ED presented to the committee the updated signage regarding the food waste diversion at the Recycling Center. Several edits were discussed. ED to revise the signage and order two from the printers. JR has purchased one mounting/installation option in advance of the order.

ED discussed the Cape Courier articles regarding thin film recycling spring cleanup.

SA provided a summary of a Facebook post provided by one of the swap shop volunteers, who is interested in partnering with Restore/Habitat for Humanity. The request was to purchase a shed to provide storage for reusable building construction items and have Restore collect them at the Recycling Center. JR noted that the Town Manager also received this

request, and asked the committee to review the feasibility of this proposal. Several committee members offered to assist with researching this topic.

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

JP also provided a summary of the clothing swap event held last month.

5. Committee Updates and Correspondence:

TT inquired about the status of one of the bottle donations grant awardees.

SA provided an update on the progress of the new NexTrex thin-film recycling program currently in progress at the Library. It was also noted that the Library will be hosting another event on May 9th that covers Plastic Film Recycling. It was also noted that volunteers will be needed to manage this collection site and any potential future collection sites. The committee discussed volunteering logistics. Several locations were discussed for future dropoff sites.

6. Recycling Center Update

JR provided a brief update that included the previously discussed topics, which included the request to consider partnering with Restore/Habitat for Humanity and the changes to the Goodwill collection bins.

7. Other Business

None

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

None

9. Adjourn: The committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Reynolds