

**Town of Cape Elizabeth Recycling Committee
Meeting Minutes**

August 7, 2025

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

Absent: Jay Reynolds (JR)

Public/Guests: none

1. Call to Order

SA called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm

2. Approval of June 5, 2025 Draft Meeting Minutes

The committee made one correction – NT was also present at the meeting with Tom Farmer and the 4th grade helpers event. With that addition, June 5 2025 meeting minutes were unanimously approved by the committee. 7 Yes, 0 No

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

None

4. Outreach, Communications, and Social Media

The committee gave big kudos to JP for creating the Cape Fest recycling activity, gathering supplies, and organizing. Thanks also to MK, JP, BF, NT & SA for tabling. MK asked if we could we make Cape Fest zero waste like Falmouth Fest. TT suggested we email the Cape Fest organizers to make that suggestion.

MK reported that the first Cape Courier article in our new series was published and it will also be posted on the town website. September 19 is the deadline for the Oct 1 paper and JP will be drafting an article about textiles and upcoming events such as the clothing swap, shredding, and HHWD.

5. Committee Member Updates and Correspondence

TT gave a bottle shed update. He will send an email in September to everyone who has applied in the past or reached out this year with interest letting them know the application deadline (October 31 with a 30 day application window). TT will ask Susanna to post it on the website. BF asked if we should we put it in the courier. TT suggested that public works could put the grant opportunity on the digital sign. MK asked if we could we make flyers to post in library and bottle shed. MK will send flyer to Cape Courier and see if they'll post it as an ad.

NT asked if we could add more dates to the volunteer sign up. SA will add more slots to the SignUpGenius and TT will send out an email to groups who received funding last year and haven't volunteered yet to remind them of the requirement.

KM shared a magnet design she created and let the committee know that 5x3 is the most economical size. TT asked how the magnets be distributed. The committee discussed leaving some at the library, town hall, and the transfer station.

JF reported that Beth at the swap shop has observed an increase in people visiting the swap shop without stickers. She asked if there is anything the committee can do to make it clear that the recycling center and swap shop is for residents only. The committee discussed. TT shared his recent observation

from a visit to the Wells transfer station where every sticker is checked on the way in. This led to a discussion and questions about Cape stickers. Do they expire? Are non-residents using old stickers to park at FT Williams and use the transfer station? Should stickers be given when people register their vehicles? The Committee was also curious about the new fees at the transfer station and the rationale for the change.

NT gave a ReStore update. She spoke to the new manager David Dukes who is enthusiastic but had some questions. He can provide signage and can commit to once a week pick up for a few months but wouldn't continue beyond that if it wasn't going well. The committee discussed how would items would flow to the container and be put in. The committee suggested the collection container be put near the shed so it could be more easily monitored by attendants. SA suggested a POD other temporary container to test the program for the first 6 month. NT will research.

The committee discussed the recent ecomaine tour. SA, MK and TT attended and all thought it was fantastic. Thanks to JP for coordinating. Biggest takeaway was how much we need to focus on using less! We learned the new facility will give more recycling options and be better for community tours. SA will call community serves to see if they want to schedule regular tours for residents.

BF gave a reminder that we have a HS composting meeting with Tom Farmer on 8/11. BF will get in touch with Brie, Tara, and Chriss re: the middle school helpers program and composting.

BF remarked that there is opportunity to influence the design of new middle school and the committee agreed to look for public meetings this fall to give comments.

6. Recycling Center Update

NA

7. Other Business

None

8. Citizens Opportunity to Discuss Items on the Agenda

None.

9. Adjourn

The Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:08 pm