

**Town of Cape Elizabeth
Recycling Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 7, 2024**

Present: Becky Fernald (BF), Eve Downing (ED), Nina Trowbridge (NT), Tim Trachimowicz (TT)

Absent: Stephanie Austin (SA), Greg Stewart (GS), Jenna Pfeuller (JP)

Staff: Jay Reynolds (JR)

Public/Guests: none

1. Call to Order

TT called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm

2. Approval of October 3, 2024 Draft Meeting Minutes:

The October 3, 2024 meeting minutes were amended and unanimously approved by the committee.

4 Yes, 0 No

3. Citizens Opportunity for Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda:
none

4. Review of Bottle Shed Grant Applications

The committee reviewed applications for the bottle shed grant. Items discussed were the applications, the dollar amounts, available funding, and funding options. The committee agreed to schedule another discussion at their December meeting. This will allow the full committee to review the applications and decide on how to distribute the funds to the applicants. TT to contact GS to update the funding sheet.

5. Outreach, Communications, and Social Media

TT noted that he observed several social media posts over the last month. They were in regards to the swap shop.

ED mentioned that she will be starting a story about the swap shop for the Cape Courier.

The committee discussed the announcement and celebration of meeting the Trex Challenge goal. An event at the library has been scheduled for November 19th. NT: asked if the collecting another 1,000 pounds of plastics will be part of the future plan. The committee discussed the plastics volunteering efforts at the Library.

The committee also discussed volunteering at the swap shop as part of the bottle shed grant program. The committee agreed to work on the wording of the award letters to encourage volunteering.

ED: noted the announcement regarding the plastic film recycling that was on the Town's website. JR noted that SA sent the Town's webmaster the announcement.

6. Committee Member Updates and Correspondence

BF started the discussion regarding recycling in the schools. NT, SA, and BF have been volunteering at the cafeteria for 4th grade lunch. A committee member heard from Chriss Sutherland, who reported that the new sorting/recycling is working great at the middle school. The Clynk program is now in the cafeteria, which is now generating money. TT discussed the volunteering in schools and the commitment level needed. TT offered to reach out to the middle school staff, and to request for people to volunteer. BF noted that the middle school is now self-sufficient and has less of a need for volunteers. It was noted that the elementary school needs more help. NT noted some personal observations. TT suggested providing signage with pictures of items to help. BF noted that she has talked with school staff about how the program can improve without causing conflict with school staff and students. The committee discussed potential recycling incentives and goals. TT noted that Ecomaine has a school outreach program and might be able to assist. BF asked about the maximum number of committee members discussing topics outside of regular meetings. JR noted that four members constitutes a quorum and the need to publicize a meeting. TT suggested re-inviting the school superintendent to a recycling committee meeting. The committee further discussed other ways to incentivize the efforts. TT suggested a poster in shared the cafeteria, where elementary school students will see it.

7. Recycling Center Update

Jay Reynolds (JR) gave a brief update regarding the transfer station operations. JR discussed current activities, including an update to the Habitat for Humanity/Restore initiative. The committee discussed storage options for the future program.

JR noted that he met with a group of middle school 7th and 8th grade students at the Recycling Center. This involved a short tour, with a question and answer segment. This provided some education and outreach for the students.

JR noted that the single-use battery collection has launched and is working well.

JR also noted that this year's household hazardous waste day is this Saturday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

8. Other Business

None

9. Citizens Opportunity to Discuss Items on the Agenda.

None.

10. Adjourn: The Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:26 pm.