

## **WELLFLEET RECYCLING COMMITTEE**

**Minutes for May 4, 2021 at 11:00 pm**

**Virtual Zoom Meeting, Recorded**

**Members present:** Jaya Karlson, Nancy Najmi, Christine Shreves, Lydia Vivante, Christine Wisniewski, Jane Sharp

**Members not present:** Bethia Brehmer

Others Present: Carol Magenau (Wellfleet Energy & Climate Action Committee), Tom Siggia (Wellfleet Shellfish Advisory Board), Kari Parcell (MassDEP)

Lydia called the meeting to order at 11:02.

### **Announcements:**

- Household Hazardous Waste Days are coming up. There are brochures and information on the town websites. Wellfleet residents can dispose of hazardous Waste at the Wellfleet Transfer Station on Wednesday June 5, in Truro on August 7, and in Provincetown in October in Provincetown. Lydia placed brochures at a number of Wellfleet center locations including the Cape Cod 5, Aim Thrift Shop, and the Liquor store. Chris W updated the Recycling Committee Instagram page.
- Free Wellfleet, town-wide free stuff event is scheduled for May 15 and 16. Anybody interested can register on [wellfleetrecycles.org](http://wellfleetrecycles.org). The event happens in your driveway. The form is on our website. Andrea Pluhar, Nancy Vail and Roland Blair (Swap Shop Coordinator) are working on this.

### **Minutes:**

1. Transfer Station Update: Mike Cicale is off-site today but updated Lydia that the boat-wrap recycling is happening now at the transfer station and Pay As You Throw (PAYT) bags will be required as of June 1, 2021.
2. MassDEP Update: Kari is not sure when the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program grants will open up. Cape Cod Commission Waste Diversion Contract - Focus group webinar - food scraps, glass aggregate, hard to recycle stuff, refill bottles rather than reprocess a solution but not feasible, Kari felt there could have been a half hour more of discussion, looked at waste as a whole in communities, Sierra Club, community members, good discussion, looked at surveys, there will be a draft shared with groups based on notes from all participants, deciding if a second meeting will be relevant. Feasibility study to conclude in November 2021.

3. Shellfish Advisory Board (SAB) update: Tom has gotten lots of input from shellfishermen that they do want to participate in switching to re-usable bungee cords. Tom is waiting for Kari and the Recycling Committee for guidance in putting together the grant proposal. Kari will send information about the CARE grant to Tom. The SAB has met three times in the last six weeks, but the affordable housing shortage is the biggest item on their agenda.
4. Energy and Climate Action Committee update: Carol described the process they have been following to reapply for a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) which includes identifying low lying roads in town, providing engineering plans for two of these locations. Wellfleet is the lead among six communities applying for this grant, which they didn't get last year. Truro is joining the Global Covenant of Mayors effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Once the Solar vendor for the array at the Transfer Station installs a set of poles the system will be ready to go online. The town is leasing the solar panels. The committee wants to celebrate the initiation of the solar panels.
5. Lydia shared the Free Wellfleet webpage created by Andrea Pluthar and took us through the process of registering to share items with the community. You provide your address where you will place the items in your driveway, whether your address is locatable through GPS, a short description of items, parking advice, etc. A private google map shows the location of each person giving items away. Lydia made a motion that the Recycling Committee website host this Free Wellfleet webpage. Jaya seconded and the motion passed, 6-0.
6. Christine S would like to talk to Kari about a shared statewide or Barnstable county-wide opening of the SWAP shops. Wellfleet leaders don't want to open the SWAP shop until the rest of Cape Cod towns open their SWAP shops. Governor Baker has stated that he wants the state to fully reopen by August 1, 2021, and hopefully that will include the SWAP shops. AIM Thrift shop allows six to eight people in their store at one time, everybody in masks, and the windows open.
7. Commercial Water Bottle Ban:
  - a. Outreach Plan: Christine S asked Kari what other towns are doing for unveiling the bottle ban in addition to the "Drink Brewster TAP". Kari will give us a list of contacts for the Recycling Committees in other Cape towns. Rich Francolini (Orleans) applied for \$50,000 from community preservation funds for five nice pedestal refill stations. In early June the Wellfleet Health agent will make a template letter for businesses explaining the single use water bottle ban. The plan is to follow up with an emailed flyer, or app link, and/or decal. We need to look into bulk prices for canned water, glass bottles and branded reusable bottles. Lydia suggested that we ask if the Nauset High School Green Club could create a virtual kit.
  - b. Decal: The final phrasing of the decal will be available after tomorrow's meeting with the Outer Cape Outreach group. They would like Chris W's input for the decal. Suggestions are "Drink Cape Cod Tap", "Drink Wellfleet Tap".

- c. Maps and Apps: At the last meeting we discussed using the Refill.org.uk app for locating water refill stations in Wellfleet. The Tap App is not available and there is no timeline for when it will be. Chris W suggested putting the app on the back burner and going ahead with creating a private google map for Cape locations of refill stations.
8. Water Bottle Refill Stations: One station will be by the Harbormaster Office at the Wellfleet Marina. It will go next to the shower building where it will be easier for the potable water to reach. Christine S will contact the sponsor of this refill station, Kara at Nauset Disposal, about what writing she would like on the plaque. Without access to our funds due to the current accounting issue in town, it will be difficult to get the Town Hall refill station installed. Christine S is trying to contact the water commissioner who volunteered to install the refill station at Town Hall.
9. Water for Town Meeting on June 26 (rain dates June 27, 28,29) at 10 AM (250 people): Lydia informed us that the Town Meeting moderator requested that the Recycling Committee provide water at the annual Town Meeting. Last year there was leftover water in plastic bottles. Lydia will check with Jim Hood (Water Commission) if we can use open water and stainless steel tanks to store chilled water from the tap in the school building. Due to accounting issues in town, our committee doesn't currently have the money available for this. Christine S will not be here for the June 26 Town Meeting.
10. CARE for the Cape & Islands grant opportunity: the CARE grant deadline is May 31, 2021. If Tom and the SAB want to apply for a grant for reusable bungees, the Recycling Committee will help using the same language from the MassDEP grant. Christine S asked Kari if these grants are available for refill stations (the Baker Field refill station was funded by a CARE grant). Kari noted that the grant committees are always looking for "new" ideas that fit the grant criteria.
11. Summer 2021 Recycling News Flyer: In Provincetown a Recycling News Flyer is provided to rentals. Chris W questioned how to handle this flyer since we don't have curbside recycling. Our flyer would add info about water refill stations, carry-in/carry-out, town rules for waste diversion, wellfleetrecycles.org, instagram. Christine S wondered if we should check with DPW director or Mike Cicale to see if they want to sponsor this. Lydia wonders if the Conservation Commission or other Environmental group wants to make the flyer more of a Wellfleet green guide. We would like this by July 4. Lydia could start something modeled on the Provincetown flyer. Christine S handed out the old bookmarks to RC members last year, but we still have RecycleSmart recycling guide cards. Chris W & Jane will take some, Christine will drop them off. The Chamber of Commerce may or may not have their building open this year. We can put RecycleSmart cards and flyers at the transfer station. Post office takes posters, not stacks of flyers. If the Beach Sticker building opens that will be a great location for flyers.
12. Plastic Reduction: NIPs ban. Falmouth and Chelsea have by-laws that eliminate liquor "NIP" bottles in the 80 to 100 ml sizes. Do we want to pursue a NIPS ban or a universal redemption bottle bill?
13. Compost - Hamilton, MA has a nice model that is more of a waste policy than by-law. It is significant that 25% of municipal waste is typically compostable. Mike told Lydia that the Watts family farm is not producing retail level compost. Kari suggested we inform Watts farm, but

noted it is difficult to contact them. AJ and Andrew Watts work at the Sandwich Transfer Station. Watts picks up Outer Cape compost from Dennis; Chad Contonio could be called about contacting Watts.. Dave's Greens is looking to get a license for curing compost on their farm..

14. Recycling Committee Calendar: Next year we want to make sure to get refill stations on the tourist discovery maps. We need to put the deadlines for many publications in our calendar.
15. Aquaculture: Grant holders saying that things are picking up as restaurants around the country are starting to open up.
16. The Community Cutlery and the Library of Things are still on hold due to Covid-19 restrictions.
17. Chris W will post info on social media about Free Wellfleet, reminders about the reinstatement of PAYT, information about the Hazardous Waste Day, and an invitation for applications for the Recycling Committee - 1 member and 2 alternates. These will be posted on Wellfleet Recycles & Wellfleet Community Space Facebook also.
18. April Minutes: Christine S moved to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2021 meeting as amended with the numbering fixed, Lydia seconded and the motion was approved 5-0.
19. There is still no accounting report available. The current balance sheet shows the Recycling Committee has \$300, but it should show \$3000. The next step is to talk to Jeanne at the DPW regarding RC budget to try to straighten things out.
20. Chris W made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Christine S seconded and the motion was approved, 5-0.

Meeting adjourned: 12:24 PM

Next meeting: JUNE 1, 2021, 11 AM

Minutes prepared by Nancy Najmi