

WELLFLEET RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Minutes for April 6, 2021 at 1:30 pm

Virtual Zoom Meeting, Recorded

Members present: Jaya Karlson, Nancy Najmi, Christine Shreves, Lydia Vivante

Members not present: Bethia Brehmer, Jane Sharp, Christine Wisniewski

Others Present: Carol Magenau (Energy & Climate Action Com.), Gary Senecal (Eastham Recycling Com.)

Christine called the meeting to order at 1:32 pm. This change in meeting time is for this week only to accommodate a schedule issue.

Announcements:

- Student Diane Williams sent a video describing the Nauset Regional High School Volunteer Project with the Wellfleet Shellfishermen's Farmers Market on Saturdays from 12 to 2 at the Wellfleet Marina which will continue until May 1, 2021. Volunteers meet cars coming to pick up pre-ordered shellfish. The students explain the process and guide cars who are new to the Farmers Market, and they take shellfish bags and shells from former customers for recycling. The students offer recipes and explain how the shells and bags are recycled to interested customers. Diane concluded by describing what a nice opportunity this was for students to interact with shellfishermen and community members.
- RecycleSmart April 20th Webinar 1-2 pm "Home Composting for Zero Waste"
- Kari's Recycling Members Town Hall April 21st, "Composting"
- Friends of the Herring River is sponsoring a Beach Clean-Up to celebrate Earth Day 2021. Meet at Mayo Beach on Saturday April 17, 2021.

Minutes:

1. Transfer Station: Mike Cicale was not available for an update. Christine noted that Pay As You Throw (PAYT) will resume on June 1, 2021 and that Chris will do an Instagram post on that.
2. Commercial Water Bottle Ban outreach planning:
 - a. Tap App is being updated and not available currently. Refill.uk app is available and Christine has gotten it to work on her phone, so she shared a screenshot showing water refill locations: three in Boston, and one on the Outer Cape. The

Refill organization has a picture of a decal that can be provided to businesses to put in their front windows, and is a candidate for us to consider promoting. Lydia mentioned that she emailed Refill a couple of years ago about whether the decal was proprietary. Their response was unclear but Lydia thinks that because their company is global now we'll be encouraged to use the decal and she plans to follow up. The downside with the refill app is that they have a partnership with a company that makes re-usable products and advertisements pop up when you open the app. We are all encouraged to try the app now to see how we feel about it.

- b. Christine and Lydia joined Gary (Eastham), Ted Jones and Sherry Prada (Provincetown), and Amy Wolff (Truro) for a meeting to coordinate outreach efforts with the Commercial Water Bottle Ban. Christine will forward the minutes to the Recycling Committee. The group decided to do more research on the water refill station apps to promote and will meet again in two weeks to discuss which app and decal to use.
 - c. Lydia is looking into a letter to send to businesses regarding the bottled water bylaw. She may be able to use the polystyrene ban letter that was sent to businesses in a prior year as a template. We also need to create literature to educate visitors about the bottle ban, preparing for the bottle ban with refillable bottles, where to fill bottles, etc.
 - d. Chris was unable to attend, but it was noted that she had expressed an interest in designing a water station decal and/or educational flyer at the last meeting.
 - e. Lydia suggested a Tee Shirt design competition to generate enthusiasm for the bottle ban.
3. PFAS in our drinking water is a national and local issue. Recent studies released in March 2021 indicate studies of watersheds near Joint Base Cape Cod and the Hyannis Firefighting Training Center showed elevated levels of PFAS, much of which is attributable to firefighting foams used in training. However, the study found PFAS compounds that do not come from the firefighting foams. PFAS can be filtered out and Mashpee may be currently doing so. Christine remembers calling the Silent Spring Institute about their research on PFAS in Cape Cod Watersheds.
4. Aquaculture plastic reduction: Shellfish Constable, SAB, CCS may apply for MassDEP grant to reduce use of plastic. Lydia will get an update from Tom Siggia of the Shellfish Advisory Board (SAB) about their intent to partner with the Wellfleet Shellfishermen's Association (WSA) to apply for a grant to get reusable bungee ball cords for securing shellfish bags to mitigate the lost plastic zipties that are found throughout the harbor.
5. NIPS state law: In 2019 Lydia sent a letter to the governor and to the Select Board (SB) to support a resolution that proposed adding NIPS to the bottles that are assessed deposits. Falmouth and Mashpee have recently banned the sale of NIPS altogether. Jaya suggested that it makes sense to be consistent with other Cape Cod towns when considering whether to institute deposits on NIPS or banning NIPS.

6. Packaging/Litter: Jaya spoke to a 30 year Wellfleet Police veteran who said nobody ever called about littering in her tenure. Lydia noted that Mike had brought up litter and fines when Pay As You Throw (PAYT) was being considered, and had explained that illegal dumpers were often discovered because their names were in the trash.
7. Compost services: There is an upcoming Conservation Law Webinar on Composting. Cero Cooperative Composting in Boston has been successfully collecting food scraps from businesses that are legally required to limit their food waste to one ton per week. At our last meeting we discussed Black Earth Compost, and Lydia wrote to the Town Administrator about working with Black Earth Compost but the town is busy with the financial budget right now. Kari Parcell (Barnstable County Regional Waste Reduction Coordinator) said Black Earth may not continue.
8. Carol Magenau of the Energy & Climate Action Committee did not have a report as the committee didn't meet in March but will meet later tonight.
9. Swap Shop: The DPW is reluctant to open the Swap Shop since all other Cape Cod Swap Shops are closed. Jaya noted the space limitations of the Swap Shop, and Roland the Swap Shop coordinator has proposed that there be one day when people drop off used items, and another day when controlled numbers of people can go into the Swap Shop. We don't have any money at our disposal to get a rental trailer to store items for the time being. Gary questioned whether there is any evidence that things are being thrown away that would otherwise have been swapped? Christine said that when the Recycling closed temporarily for Covid in March, 2020 the amount of trash increased so it is difficult to determine how much of that was due to the Swap Shop closure rather than the Recycling closure. Christine saw photos of a recent Swap Shop held outdoors in Wellesley in a tent.
10. Water bottle refill stations: Wellfleet Health Agent Hillary Greenberg-Lemos wants to see the state regulations regarding covid as applied to installing and allowing use of the water filler (which the Recycling Committee has already purchased). Neil has offered to install the Town Hall water filler.
11. Social Media/Website: Chris can't maintain the website right now. We need to clean things up on our website. The plastic reduction bylaws are on the town's website.
12. Recycling Committee vacancies: Bethia Brehmer is retiring from the committee on June 30, 2021. We need one new member and two alternates.
13. The accounting report is not available.
14. March Minutes: The minutes of the March 2, 2021 meeting were approved as amended, 4-0. Christine will send out the corrected notes

Meeting adjourned: 2:19pm

Next meeting: MAY 4, 2021, 11 AM

Minutes prepared by Nancy Najmi