

## **WELLFLEET RECYCLING COMMITTEE**

**Minutes for June 1, 2021 at 11:00 AM**

**Virtual Zoom Meeting, Recorded**

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

**Members not present:** Bethia Brehmer, Jaya Karlson

Others Present: Carol Magenau (Wellfleet Energy & Climate Action Committee), Gary Senecal (Eastham Recycling Committee), Kari Parcell (MassDEP)

Christine called the meeting to order at 11:07 AM.

### **Announcements:**

- Lydia wanted to mark the passing of former DPW director Mark Vincent last week. He was a proponent of maintaining single-stream recycling to optimize what was recycled. Lydia will send a condolence note on the Recycling Committee letterhead to his family.

### **Minutes:**

1. Curt Felix requested Recycling Committee support for several warrant articles, Lydia summarized in his absence.
2. PAYT bags are required as of today (June 1). There are no updates from Mike Cicale (Wellfleet Transfer Station).
3. Mass DEP Microgrant: Last winter the Recycling Committee submitted a microgrant to reduce plastic waste in aquaculture, but without a non-profit partner the grant didn't meet the criteria. For the next grant, we'll work with Tom Siggia (SAB) and the Wellfleet Shellfish Association, and/or the Center for Coastal Studies as our non-profit partner. Jane moved and Christine S seconded that we apply for the MassDEP micro grant along with the non-profit Shellfish Association. The motion was approved 5-0. Kari is checking into the deadline for us. For reference, Laura Ludwig of the Center for Coastal Studies found 571 zip-ties in a two hour Wellfleet Harbor clean-up session last fall.
4. Open Water canned water for June 26 Town Meeting: Christine S contacted Wellfleet Marketplace about donating Open Water canned water for the June 26 Town Meeting. Store manager Bob Madeiros agreed to purchase ten cases of Open Water canned water and the town will match that and purchase 10 cases. The Town Moderator will thank Wellfleet Marketplace in his opening statements. Hillary Greenberg-Lemos (Wellfleet Health/Conservation Department) has asked if Americorp will volunteer at Town Meeting as a service project. Jane and Nancy and Lydia volunteered to help. The set up starts at 8 AM,

people arrive at 9 AM, the meeting starts at 10 AM and it should not go longer than 2 PM. Lydia will arrange for the pick up of the ten cases of canned water from Wellfleet Marketplace and coordinate the Recycling Committee volunteer effort. Christine S will not be here.

5. Summer 2021 Recycling newsletter, bookmark, or calendar: - last month the old recyclesmart bookmarks were distributed. Christine S will reach out to Jean at the DPW about whether there is any money we can access for printing flyers and she has sent an email to the Selectboard about the mix-up in the accounting of the Recycling Committee money. Christine S suggests we wait until the fall to create the green card. Lydia is concerned that we don't have enough easily accessible information about all the recycling and green initiatives in progress. Gary said the Eastham Recycling Committee is working on some form of communication for Sustainable Eastham.
6. NIP bans and packaging reduction: Lydia contacted the city of Attleboro about a by-law to eliminate plastic NIP bottles that is on their agenda. Alan Robinson in Falmouth helped pass a successful NIPS ban and started their water bottle refill campaign, modeled after Philadelphia's. He may be a helpful resource for us to contact. Packaging - Lydia noted that Trader Joe's has removed a lot of the plastic that used to wrap their produce and is carrying some health and beauty products in glass rather than plastic. Jane has stopped using Amazon books at the behest of her children due to their plastic packaging and recommends Bookshop.org as it uses no plastic for shipping. Chris W suggested East End books in Provincetown will order any books with minimal packaging as well.
7. We need to order PPE litter pick-uppers for the next beach clean-up.
8. Compost for residential drop-off at the transfer station: Mike Cicale told Lydia he will not yet use the LED signs to promote compost drop-offs until people are comfortable with the resumption of the PAYT. He further explained to Christine S that he is short-staffed and behind on making signs that inform people where their trash and recycling are going. Black Earth bought out Compost with Me (Mary Ryder) and is operating in Yarmouth, Mashpee and Falmouth.
9. Free Wellfleet Report: Christine read a paragraph from Andrea Pluhar referring to how well the Free Wellfleet event went. Some suggestions were for people to put photos of items they were giving away, but Andrea feels this would be too cumbersome. She had to manually update the map as each new person joined the event, but Andrea found it very manageable. Current plans are to do this twice a year. Kari said a SWAP shop in Eastham is opening during the week of June 14. To get RDP points for operating a swap shop it must be opened by August 1. Christine S suggested we send a letter to DPW about opening the SWAP shop.
10. Commercial Water Bottle Ban: Christine S shared a copy of Chris W's refill station decal "Refill Wellfleet" Thank you Chris W. The Refill Cape Cod working group was formed to regionalize efforts to transition to the water bottle ban. Members include Recycling Committee and DPW representatives from Provincetown, Truro (Amy Wolff), Wellfleet (Christine Shreves), Eastham (Gary Senecal), Brewster (Meg Morris) and they welcome more of us to join. They will meet on Thursday June 10 to finalize a common decal (Chris W's "Refill Cape Cod" decal) and to create a map that will show locations of refill stations all over the cape. The Brewster Tap PR was appealing and many members of the group would like to pursue a similar promotional video.

Chris W wanted to know if individual towns want to customize the decals for individual towns. Christine S said the towns will be responsible for their own town specific decals. Hillary Greenberg-Lemos (Wellfleet Health/Conservation) and Jordan from Americorp sent a letter to all town businesses which is attached to the minutes. It highlights what businesses can do to facilitate a successful transition to the single use bottle ban, like offering cold tap water, canned water, etc. Jane wonders if we should specifically target the new pot shops for refill stations, etc.

11. Wellfleet Energy & Climate Action Committee Update: Carol said there is no update on the solar array. We don't know when Eversource is going to put up the poles. Carol complimented Mike Cicale's new display at the transfer station detailing the dos and don'ts of recycling.
12. The water station at Harbormaster's office will be outside the Women's restroom in front of the transient dock. Christine hasn't yet contacted Nauset Disposal about the plaque. We might use the thin polyethylene board for plaque. Chris W commented that the refill stations in Concord, MA have a nice Thoreau quote at the bottom of each of the plaques. Christine has been looking at the brass plaques at benches along the pier. Lydia noted that if you oil the outdoor refill stations it will keep them looking good from season to season.
13. The Annual Wellfleet 5K Road Race: In 2019 the Recycling Committee provided water for the runners, eliminating plastic single-use water bottles. The Water Monster is a huge 250-gallon container with spigots all over that is powered by a hose. The Bookstore Restaurant provided the water hook up but it proved very cumbersome with the hose having to cross Kendrick Ave, and the container takes a long time to fill. Canned water was also available. Off-site water stations used stainless steel fusti water dispensers with paper cups. I. This year we will use the fusti at the starting point and carry it back and forth to fill it at the Bookstore. The Wellfleet 4th of July parade will be Sat July 3, and the race will be Sunday July 4. We might need an additional fusti for the remote water station on the race route. The race is run by the Wellfleet Recreation Department, so we need to confirm that Becky Rosenberg or Angel Robinson will order the water, and perhaps get it sponsored by Marketplace. In 2019 the Recycling Committee procured canned water given out for free and bottled sparkling water for a \$3 or \$5 suggested donation), but there were a lot of leftovers which are now in Christine S's basement. She will donate those remaining cans for this year's road race, but does not suggest buying any more as they did not sell.
14. Chris W did a social media post yesterday for the hazardous waste day June 5, last month for free Wellfleet, and for the reinstatement of PAYT. The Recycling Committee has 360 followers on Instagram and is building up. Chris W also reposts to facebook and community page.
15. Community cutlery and the library of things is being stored at the library. Michele (director of SPAT) is looking for 40 forks. Christine S will ask the library if she can get them. Once we find out the status of the library Chris W can post links to our online pictures of the library of things. Christine is picking up stainless steel cups from SPAT to show the Refill Cape Cod working group as examples of promotional reusable water containers.
16. Christine S asked the town to update their website about the vacancies on the recycling committee.
17. May Minutes: Jane moved to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2021 meeting with edits provided to Nancy, Lydia seconded and the motion was approved 5-0.

Meeting adjourned: 12:06 PM

Next meeting: JULY 6, 2021, 11 AM

Minutes prepared by Nancy Najmi