

## **WELLFLEET RECYCLING COMMITTEE**

**Minutes for July 6, 2021 at 11:00 AM**

**Virtual Zoom Meeting, Recorded**

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

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

Lydia called the meeting to order at 11:01 AM.

### ***Announcements:***

- Bethia Brehmer's term on the Wellfleet Recycling Committee ended on June 30, 2021. Thank you to Bethia for her many years of dedicated service to the Recycling Committee.
- Eight restaurants in Wellfleet are recycling their oyster shells through the Massachusetts Oyster Project (<http://massoyster.org/shell-recycling>). The participating restaurants are Winslow's Tavern, Beachcomber, Pearl, Mac's Seafood Shack, Wicked Oyster, Moby Dick's, CShore, Van Rensselaer's, and the Wellfleet Shellfisherman's Farmers Market. The Oyster Project picks up the shells three times per week and delivers them to the Wellfleet Transfer Station where they are aged for a year before utilized as culch to build up oyster reefs.
- AMZehnder gallery recently hosted an art opening in which the wine glasses were not plastic, but rather glass. Chris W will check with the gallery owner before posting the Recycling Committee's support for this on Instagram.

### ***Minutes:***

1. The Swap Shop will be opening on July 10, 2021 after a fifteen month hiatus due to Covid19. News of the opening is being limited by word of mouth to provide a slower start. A volunteer sign-up sheet is being circulated for two hour shifts: 8-10 and 10-12 on Saturdays, Sundays and Tuesdays. The Eastham Swap Shop has been open for two weeks and they've been inundated with donations.
2. Mike Cicale of the Wellfleet Transfer Station/ Recycling Center could not attend today's meeting but emailed an update announcing the upcoming Swap Shop re-opening, and noting that the recent town meeting and election approved the procurement of a new roll-off truck that will help offset recycling expenses.
3. Kari Parcell of the Mass DEP is available for questions regarding Cape Cod Commission/Barnstable County Extension grants through this week. The deadline is July 14. The

MassDEP Microgrants are awarded on a rolling basis, with less specific deadlines, although it will be wise for the Shellfish Advisory Board (SAB) to apply soon. The SAB will partner with the Center for Coastal Studies (CSS), as required by grant guidelines, and complete the application sooner rather than later. The Boat Shrinkwrap recycling events went well across Cape Cod. The Shrinkwrap is designed for three years of use only, and becomes smaller after each use. Of course it may be cut and used as a tarp for general household use (like covering wood piles). Longer term alternatives for winterizing boats include garaging (very expensive), and canvas tarp use (not as protective).

4. Lydia and Nancy represented the Recycling Committee at the Town Meeting Water Station on June 26, 2021. The weather was mostly sunny and breezy and the meeting went on from 10 AM until 4:30 PM so the water was essential. Americorps volunteers Ashley Boudreau, Nicole Westfall, Natalie Bowman, and Caroline Stephen helped set up the table and distribute water as did Catharine Nass (Board of Water Commissioners), Police Chief Michael Hurley and members of the Police Department, and Fire Chief Richard Pauley and members of the Fire Department. Fire Chief Pauley brought coolers full of ice to keep the water cool. Wellfleet Marketplace provided the OPEN brand canned water and RAIN brand canned water which attendees found very refreshing. For many of us it was our first introduction to canned water. Lydia and Nancy brought the empty cans and cardboard packing to the Transfer Station for recycling. Nancy sent thank you notes on behalf of the Recycling Committee to the Americorps volunteers, Police Chief and department, Fire Chief and department, Wellfleet Marketplace managers and staff, and to Wellfleet Health Agent Hillary Greenberg-Lemos for writing the application for the Americorps volunteers.
5. At the July 11, 2021 Road Race the Recycling Committee will help Becky Rosenberg (Wellfleet Recreation Department) with the water stations. Christine S, Lydia, and Nancy will help. Nancy will check the food grade hoses and other supplies at the Recreation building and will pick up the X-frames and bags from the Transfer Station.
6. The Town of Bourne has sent a request for letters of support from Cape Cod Recycling and Solid Waste Committees to buttress its application for expansion of its landfill. The Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISMW) program in Bourne is a private and public partnership, which is applying for the landfill expansion. While Bourne will likely be the only active landfill in Cape Cod in five years, the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) still prefers zero waste goals over landfill expansion goals. Efforts to reduce food waste are not addressed in this application. We discussed Yarmouth's unsuccessful attempt to use an anaerobic digester for food waste and sewage sludge. Many towns are averse to open composting (wind rows) as it invites rats and is associated with odors. Discussion ensued about inviting ISMW representatives to explain their application along with Jeff Colby from Yarmouth DPW to describe their experiences with anaerobic digesters; and to invite environmental groups like the CLF to present their perspective on the landfill expansion application; and to consider a Cape wide forum with our local legislators Julian Cyr, Sarah Peake and Bill Keating. No action is being made at this time to either send a letter of support or initiate meetings.
7. Lydia is working on a recycling brochure for 2021.

8. Lydia shared the Recycling Committee annual calendar and invited members to add important dates like grant application deadlines.

9. Plastic reduction:

- a. The Shellfish Advisory Board (SAB) will partner with the non-profit Center for Coastal Studies (CCS) to apply for a microgrant to purchase re-usable bungee closures for shellfish instead of the disposable plastic zip ties. Christine S is going to follow up with Tom and Laura.

- b. The Nips ban in Mashpee is going into effect soon. The Falmouth bylaw will ban nips that are 100 mL and smaller. This fall we will begin working on putting a nips ban into the Spring 2022 Town Meeting. Lydia plans to speak with Sarah Peake and Julian Cyr about the Universal Redemption Bottle Bill.

- c. With a grant from the DEP, we would like to survey local restaurants about the feasibility of their using washable take-out containers for re-use: (possible or no-way?) Washable take out containers are being used in San Francisco, we should see if it's happening locally anywhere. Remind restaurants to ask if people need plastic cutlery before packing it. (PJs asks customers).

10. Compost Summer Outreach: Mike Cicale hasn't gotten back to us about promoting the food waste compost bins at the Transfer Station via the LED sign at the entrance.

11. Updates:

- a. The Energy and Climate Action Committee is meeting tonight, so Carol did not have an update at this time. Christine S observed Eversource installing poles for the Solar field at the Transfer Station.

- b. Commercial Water Bottle Ban: Chris W is working on the decal design. Christine S is working on a private Google map for locating water refilling stations. Gary is meeting with Madhavi (Sustainable Practices) regarding new information from Tap App. Christine S noted that the Recycling Committee does not yet have access to its town funds so we are not ready to print decals. She is working on sorting the funding out and will try to discuss with Jean L at the DPW. The decals will be four inches in diameter. Hillary Greenberg-Lemos (Wellfleet Health Agent) is willing to send information regarding the bottle ban (and possibly refilling apps/maps) to local businesses on our behalf.

- c. Water Bottle Refill Stations: We need access to the town gift fund to proceed with the Main St. water bottle refiller. Christine has been unable to make contact yet. The marina water station has not yet been installed.

- d. Social Media: Chris W is looking for suggestions on updating our social media posts.

e. Community Cutlery/Library of Things: Barcoding items is on hold due to Covid19 restrictions. We will need to ultimately help organize items.

f. Recycling Committee vacancies: We need one additional member and two alternate members.

**June Minutes:** Jane moved to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2021 meeting Christine S seconded and the motion was approved 5-0.

**Meeting adjourned: 12:10 PM**

**Next meeting: August 3, 2021, 11 AM**

Minutes prepared by Nancy Najmi