

WELLFLEET RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Minutes for August 3, 2021 at 11:00 AM

Virtual Zoom Meeting, Recorded

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

Others Present: Carol Magenau (Wellfleet Energy & Climate Action Committee), Gary Senecal (Eastham Recycling Committee), Olivia Kraus (passionate recycler who is considering joining the Wellfleet Recycling Committee)

Christine S called the meeting to order with a roll call at 11:05 AM, including introductions of all present.

Announcements:

- Welcome Olivia Kraus to the Wellfleet Recycling Committee meeting
- AIM (non-profit thrift shop that supports Outer Cape Health Centers and other local causes) is having an art sale in the Town Hall driveway on Saturday August 7, 2021 from 8:30-10:30.

Minutes:

1. The Swap Shop re-opened in July, 2021. Hours are Saturdays, Sundays, and Tuesdays from 8 AM to noon. Volunteers are always needed - check the Transfer Station website and contact Roland Blair to schedule volunteer shifts. Terry Frazier of the Council of Aging (COA) provided white cotton masks for visitors who'd forgotten theirs. Elderly can work at the Swap Shop and reduce their property tax. In 2020 funding for the new Swap Shop was removed and will go back on the warrant for 2022.
2. Transfer Station: Mike Cicale emailed an update. There had been an issue with the company that provides the purple Pay as you Throw (PAYT) bags and a shortage of the large bags. The issue has been resolved and large PAYT bags are again available at the Wellfleet Marketplace.
3. Bourne Request for Support of Expanded Landfill: The town of Bourne owns the land at the Bourne Integrated Solid Waste Management Facility (ISWM) and is seeking the support of regional recycling and solid waste committees for its planned expansion. Mike Cicale (Wellfleet Transfer Station) supports the landfill expansion in Bourne as a crucial back-up facility in case a hurricane or other disaster results in excessive waste and debris. The Recycling Committee has deferred support as it evaluates the opinions of other regional and environmental groups including the Cape Cod Commission (CCC), Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) and the Sierra Club (SC). SC and CLF are advocating for zero waste and the CCC has developed waste goals that they want ISWM to commit to. A continuation of the July CCC hearing on this matter is scheduled for August 16, 2021.

Potential impact to major water systems in that area is a concern as landfill liners will ultimately fail. 83% of disposal to the ISWM is ash from the SeMass incinerator, and the remainder is solid waste disposal for the towns of Falmouth and Bourne. SC and CLF are pushing zero waste initiatives before agreeing to landfill expansion. 25% of household solid waste disposal is organics, which is not addressed in the current ISWM plan. There are alternatives for food waste to be separated from sewage sludge, and there are different sizes of food waste digesters that may help offset the issue with pests associated with composting.

Kari Parcell (Mass EPA) was unavailable for our meeting, but the EPA stance on the Bourne expansion is available online.

Lydia moved that the Wellfleet Recycling Committee support CCC, SC, and CLF and disagree with Mike regarding support for the ISWM expansion in Bourne at this time. Jaya seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

4. Energy & Climate Action Committee: Carol noted that the solar is still not turned on at the Wellfleet landfill.
5. July 11, 2021 Roadrace and Water Station report: There was no water monster used this year, and there was a mix-up on connecting food grade water hoses from the Bookstore Restaurant to regular hoses crossing Kendrick Ave to the Race start. Next time we will better label the food grade hoses so they are used exclusively for drinking (not for filling pool), and perhaps will get tracks to protect food grade hoses if they are used to cross the road. The Recreation department had already placed 5 gallon (plastic) water dispensers at the stations which they took from inside their office. Next year we'll have more detailed conversations to avoid duplication. The remote water stations at Kendrick/Chequessett Neck Rd and on Sunset Hill could use more Fusti water containers. Sustainable Practices volunteers Madhavi Venkatesan and Bonnie Brydges volunteered and brought two SS water dispensers. Harriet Korum, an RC friend, also volunteered. Usually there are about 300 race participants, this year there were about 120.

We should ask the town for a water connection and water spigot at the basketball court on Kendrick Ave as it would be a great water refill location.

We should put the road race on our calendar for next year.

6. Recycling News Flyer or Bookmark: The Marla Rice bookmark is still nice. The new card or postcard should be educational, perhaps explaining things like textile recycling at the Bay State Textile trailers at the Transfer Station.
7. Recycling Committee Calendar: September 1, 2021 - the single use plastic water bottle ban is going into effect. On October 11, 2021 the Wellfleet Conservation Trust is holding a "Coast Sweep" for trash pick-up along the shores. The Recycling Committee is going to participate and

will meet at Mayo Beach. We can purchase 7 extension grabbers and add them to Community Cutlery+ .

8. Plastic reduction:

a. Tom of the Shellfish Advisory Board (SAB) is partnering with Laura from the non-profit Center for Coastal Studies (CCS) to apply for a MassDEP microgrant for a pilot program to purchase re-usable bungee closures for commercial oyster racks instead of the disposable plastic zip ties.

b. Nips Ban/Universal Redemption Law: Two bills are being developed in Massachusetts related to packaging; one about prioritizing mattresses and batteries in the waste stream, and another about producer responsibility laws with regard to changing supply chains that waste resources. At our September meeting we'll discuss any bylaws that we want to propose for the next legislative season.

c. Discussion about applying for a DEP microgrant for purchasing reusable washable containers was inspired by similar actions being taken by some Boston restaurants. Lydia spoke with Mary Anne's Cafe at the Council on Aging which provides salads to go in the summer and soups to go in the winter, and they were open to the idea of using reusable washable containers especially for repeat customers. Stainless is not an ideal material if the food is to be re-heated. Members of the committee are advised to think about questions or grant proposal ideas and share them with Christine S and Lydia.

9. Compost Summer Outreach: No updates

10. Updates:

a. Commercial Water Bottle Ban: Having considered different apps to locate water refill stations, it seems that a private google map that will locate water refill stations in Wellfleet, Eastham and Orleans is the best option for the time being. Sustainable Practices Madhavi Venkatesan said that the Tap App founder would need \$3000 to make their app available again on mobile devices. They offered use of their QR code to link to their website, for a charge of \$0.25 per use, which we are not interested in. Christine S will look into getting our own QR code and will send us the google map. She will also talk to Chris W about the decal and we need to decide whether to print some up.

b. The Annual Wellfleet parade is rescheduled for Saturday September 4, 2021. The Chamber of Commerce is inviting groups to join the parade if there is anybody interested. This is short notice as it is only three weeks away, but perhaps we should see if the Nauset Regional High School Green Club is interested.

c. We need to get a flyer with information about the Commercial Water Bottle Ban out to local businesses by September 1, 2021. Should we work with a graphic designer like Andrea Pluhar?

We need to send this information to The Provincetown Independent and to the Chamber of Commerce for their newsletter and in a general email blast.

d. Water Bottle Refill Stations: The Harbormaster hasn't installed the water refill station in the 2.5 years since we acquired it. Originally it would have been located by the boat ramp, now it is planned to be installed behind the restroom building along the marina walkway. Christine S has made some progress working with the town accountant Lisa in locating the \$4223 in the Recycling Committee gift fund, \$2000 of which is slated for the town hall water refill station.

e. Social Media: Ideas discussed included posting updates on the September 1, 2021 Commercial Water Bottle ban, posting how to recycle textiles at the Transfer Station via Instagram, and posting information about compost company sign ups/Transfer Station compost bin on Instagram.

f. Community Cutlery/Library of Things: Christine S will purchase seven grabbers for our committee to participate in clean-up days.

g. Recycling Committee vacancies: Hopefully Olivia Kraus will join us.

July Minutes: To be reviewed next meeting

Meeting adjourned: 12:10 PM

Next meeting: September 7, 2021, 11 AM

Minutes prepared by Nancy Najmi