

WELLFLEET RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Minutes for September 7, 2021 at 11:00 AM

Virtual Zoom Meeting, Recorded

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

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

Lydia called the meeting to order at 11:02 AM.

Announcements:

- Mike Cicale of Wellfleet Transfer Station is not available until September 17, 2021.
- Kari Parcell Of MassDEP is unavailable for this meeting.

Minutes:

1. Transfer Station/Recycling Center: Corks and bottle tops are no longer being collected by Lenny at the Recycling Center, but there is a cork collection container in the Swap Shop. Pennies Wine and Spirits in Provincetown also collects corks. We should place signs for recycling corks at the Swap Shop. Metal bottle caps and jar lids can be recycled in the metal pile if the plastic inserts are removed and they are secured inside a metal can or cookie tin. Loose caps will just fall away as trash. As we update our website and flyer/bookmark we will add tips on recycling cork and metal lids.
2. Energy & Climate Action Committee: The committee is meeting tonight. They have prepared a press release regarding a grant for making town buildings more sustainable.
3. MassDEP/Cape Cod Commission/Barnstable County Extension/Bourne Landfill Expansion Proposal/Recent Hearings: Lydia and Nancy attended the August 16, 2021 hearing sponsored by the Cape Cod Commission's (CCC) Development of Regional Impact (DRI) subcommittee on the Bourne Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) Facility Expansion proposal for phases 7,8, and 9. The Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) and Sierra Club (SC) oppose the proposal as it hasn't sufficiently addressed zero waste and food waste goals. The hearing began with a presentation by ISWM in response to the CLF concerns, which included a PFAS pilot plan to study PFAS contamination. An update by the CCC provided opportunities for comment in which Lydia expressed a desire to see a specific plan in place for food composting. Approval was conditional on the installation of solar panels and the development of open space for pollinators. The DRI subcommittee voted 4-1 in favor of the CCC to support the application for expansion.

4. Wellfleet Water Bottle Ban in Effect as of September 1, 2021: Lydia observed that single use plastic water bottles have been removed from the shelves in Wellfleet stores and from Stop & Shop. Box Lunch had extra stock of single use plastic water bottles, having missed the May communication sent to local businesses. Other businesses may also have overlooked the communication. Regardless, businesses are not allowed to sell their extra stock; however, they can seek to return it to the vendor, consume it themselves, or donate it. The water bottle ban flyer lists alternatives that businesses can offer. Enforcement of the new law is up to the Town administrator. First offence will be a warning and subsequent disregard of the law will be associated with a fine, but initially the town will simply be watching for compliance. We sent the water bottle flyer to the Chamber of Commerce on the same day as they sent out their September newsletter so we missed including it.. They have posted the flyer on their website and will include it in their October newsletter. Christine S paid the \$35 fee to the Chamber of Commerce for an email blast, but Lara decided to waive the fee since it was a community service communication. The RC therefore has a \$35 credit for a future email blast. The town posted the flyer on its website, but we haven't yet updated the Recycling Committee website or social media. An informational blurb on community access TV was also suggested.
5. October 3, 2021 Wellfleet Oyster Week 5K run/Water Station Volunteers: The Wellfleet Recreation Department is sponsoring a 5K run on Sunday October 3, 2021 at 9 AM and is looking for water station volunteers. Lydia, Christine S, Olivia and Nancy volunteered to help. This race will be through the center of town so the water logistics will be easier.
6. October 11, 2021 Coast Sweep at Duck Harbor and the Gut at 9 AM: The Wellfleet Recycling Committee is coordinating the Duck Harbor/Gut beach clean-up with Lydia / wellfleerecycles@gmail.com listed as the contact. Please share the Coastsweep link with your friends and contacts and encourage them to help clean our shores.
<https://www.mass.gov/coastsweep>The Clean Swell app
(<https://oceanconservancy.org/trash-free-seas/international-coastal-cleanup/cleanswell/>) provides a means for recording the amount, type and location of beach trash and is helpful for environmental research. A hard seltzer company is sponsoring a beach clean-up on September 18, 2021 in Wellfleet also.
7. Recycling News/Textiles, Bookmark or Flyer: Information about textile re-use and recycling is not available on the town website, so we need to put it on our flyers. Baystate Recycling has a container next to the Swap Shop at the Transfer Station. Baystate Recycling takes clothing, linens, shoes, purses, pillows, area rugs, that are in any condition so long as they are clean, dry and bagged. Gently used clothing and linens in good condition can be dropped off at Mass Appeal, Goodwill, AIM, etc. The Swap Shop takes gently used linens and small rugs also. Wild Care takes pillowcases and towels (must call ahead! No surprise drop-offs please), Brewster Animal Shelter takes used bedding.
8. Plastic reduction:
 - a. Plastic Reduction: Tom Siggia of the Shellfish Advisory Board (SAB) has joined the Shellfish Preservation and Tasting (SPAT) organization. SPAT has partnered with the Center for Coastal Studies (CCS) and applied for a MassDEP microgrant to Reduce

Aquaculture Plastics (RAP). The grant funds would be used to investigate alternatives for plastic zip ties used in aquaculture. They will learn if they were awarded a grant in a month.

b. NIPS/Universal Redemption Law: We have not begun research on what other towns are doing.

c. Reusable Packaging Survey: In an effort to encourage local restaurants/kitchens to pilot reusable take out containers, Lydia shared a survey she has drafted for use at MaryAnn's Cafe at the Council on Aging (COA). The first question asked whether customers would appreciate reusable take out containers, and the next question asked about preferences for glass, stainless, etc. Concern was raised that the second question was too broad and that the survey needed to simply determine the feasibility of reusable containers. Jane noted that the take out container from PJ's tore up easily and she disposed of one in her compost bin but was curious if it truly was compostable. Christine S noted that the "compostable" clamshell containers usually have a water barrier with PFAS. Meals on Wheels used to use non-recyclable black plastic containers, so we should check if reusable containers would be a feasible option. The MassDEP lists other [Micro-Grant project ideas](#) including launching a deconstruction and building materials reuse program.

9. Compost Outreach: There is a pointer sign at the Transfer Station and Mike plans to do more to promote food composting.

10. Updates:

a. Water Bottle Refill Stations: Christine S shared a link to the map that highlights water refill stations in Wellfleet, Eastham and Provincetown. Brewster is planning to add their locations to the website. The symbol used for the refill stations is a faucet with a water drop.. We have a poster and a map link created through the Wellfleet Recycles Google account. We can make the Refill Cape Cod map public so it searchable by the public.. Christine S will send an email to Sustainable Practices and Care for Cape and Islands and invite them to put the link on their websites. We can also add it to the Recycling Committee website, the Recreation Department website, and the Town of Wellfleet Website and provide it at the County level to the Love Your Water Program Cooperative Extension. The links should also be shared on Instagram. We would like to create a QR code in the shape of a water drop, but we can't use the trademarked water drop associated with Tap App or other apps..

Olivia volunteered to be our webmaster and Lydia will guide her. Christine S plans to follow up with updating the Town website to add Olivia to our member list and to fix links.

The Marina water refill station (which was purchased in 2019) has still not been installed. Christine S plans to follow up with the DPW director when he returns regarding installation of both the Marina and Town Hall refill stations.

b. Social Media: Chris W did several posts on the water bottle ban on the Facebook Wellfleet Community page and on the RC Instagram. She got good responses that sparked some excellent conversations. She plans to post updates on the Transfer Station hours (closed on Wednesday and Thursday), will share the Water Refill flyers and the map link, and will post an announcement for Oxfam second-hand September month. Email other ideas for posts to Chris W.

c. Community Cutlery/Library of Things: We were contacted regarding a September 12, 2021 wedding for 40 guests in which the planners were interested in plates, cutlery and napkins. Christine met them at the library and they borrowed some of the china plates donated by the last wedding party.

To help the library ultimately take over, we need to catalog all the items with pictures, descriptions, perhaps bundle items in kits, etc. So far we have an inventory, but we still need photos.

Christine S moved we purchase 8 extension grabbers, Nancy seconded and the motion was approved 7-0.

d. Recycling Committee Vacancies/Two Alternates: We still have space for two alternate members.

e. Future Agenda Items: Email future agenda items to Christine S. Gary plans to use our water refill flyer for Eastham. Is the October 5, 2021 Recycling Committee meeting going to be a Zoom meeting, or face to face meeting? In the past we met in the library and the media specialist recorded it, but the library is not yet open for meetings.

Accounting Report: Christine S has concluded the back and forth with the town accountant and various issues have been resolved. She is preparing a more formal report, but to summarize: \$275 for Community Cutlery TS shed fire replacements was not reimburseable, \$1000 for SAB interns was reimbursed, and our FY22 operating budget is \$1500. We have \$2260 in one gift fund account, and \$1965 for the town hall refill station, for a total of \$5725 in our accounts. We need to put FY23 budget request deadline on our calendar before the end of the year.

July 6, 2021 and August 3, 2021 Minutes: Jane moved to accept the minutes as amended, Jaya seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Meeting adjourned: Olivia moved to adjourn the meeting, Christine S seconded and the motion passed 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 12:11 PM.

Next meeting: October 5, 2021, 11 AM

Minutes prepared by Nancy Najmi

