

WELLFLEET RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Minutes for October 5, 2021 at 11:00 AM

Virtual Zoom Meeting, Recorded

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

Others Present: Roland Blair (Swap Shop)

Christine Shreves called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

Announcements:

- Mike Cicale of Wellfleet Transfer Station is unavailable for this meeting.
- Kari Parcell Of MassDEP is unavailable for this meeting.
- Lydia recommended listening to a segment about PFAS in Massachusetts on radio WCAI.
- Olivia met with Mike Cicale and Jake and is working on a map of the Transfer Station along with an alphabetized list of where things go, and a quick reference sheet to help people correctly dispose of items.
- Olivia has begun working on the Recycling Committee (RC) website.

Minutes:

1. Transfer Station/Recycling Center: Mike Ciicale sent an email update that the leaf piles are being turned over so he should be able to make more compost in a couple of weeks. Jake generously used his drone to take aerial photos of the Transfer Station (TS) which will be used to create a map of the different drop off areas to be posted on the TS website. He and Olivia had a great conversation about recycling. Mike hopes to make the next RC meeting in person. As always, he's happy to chat at the TS.
2. Wellfleet Swap Shop:

Roland Blair explained that the DPW put \$55,000 aside four or five years ago for a new Swap Shop building. Roland found a metal building kit for \$20,000, which would then need about \$30,000 for putting assembly. Covid-19 put the Swap Shop on hold. The current building might not even make it a year and a half. It is an unsafe and uncomfortable building. Heat, cold, snow, rain blows through. Not enough room, lots of stuff on floor (trip hazards), and the added fire danger with space heaters. Roland supports a petition to fund the new Swap Shop building for the special Town Meeting scheduled for Dec 4, 2021. Oct 26, 2021 is the deadline to get a warrant article to the Select Board for approval, and it needs to go into a packet the week before.

Christine S sent an email response to Jay (DPW director) that we would be talking about the Swap Shop today and want a follow up discussion with him. DPW will determine where the Swap Shop building will go, and Jay wants to do a feasibility study for the Transfer Station including a five year plan that may include food waste composting as well as the Swap Shop. Roland noted there is already a plan, and that a new feasibility study will add a long wait time to the project. Roland will speak with Mike Cicale first, and then Christine S and Lydia will set up a meeting with Roland, Mike, and Jay before writing up the rationale for this petition. Roland wants to explain the function of the Swap Shop within the petition. Roland will put together some notes on the Swap Shop issues and email them to Christine S.

Chris W asked about cork collection, and Roland confirmed that Beth Brehmer does collect them at the Swap Shop and brings them to Penny's in PTown. Chris W will add a post about recycling corks at the Swap Shop. Olivia said that Mike plans to put a sign up at the glass recycling directing people to recycle corks at the Swap Shop. Olivia will clarify with Mike the details of recycling metal bottle caps and champagne top wires.

3. Energy & Climate Action Committee: Carol Magenau was unable to attend but sent an email noting that progress is being made on the solar array, and hopefully it will be operational before the calendar year is up.
4. MassDEP/Barnstable County Extension/Bourne Landfill Expansion Proposal: Lydia thinks the Bourne landfill expansion is going through. Sierra Club is saying the best they can do now is insist on space for pollinators, food waste composting.
5. October 3, 2021 Wellfleet Oyster Week 5K run/Water Station Volunteers: Christine S and Lydia manned the Mayo Beach water station while Oliva and Nancy were stationed at the Library. Olivia suggested for the next race we should put a large can about 10 feet beyond the water table for runners to toss their water cups. If a town water connection is added to Mayo Beach it will help with providing water for the July 4th and Oyster week races in addition to other town events. Lydia suggested a water kit for the Library of Things including the fusti, fusti stand, cups, market umbrella, stand, trash can. When we take photos of the Library of Things we can highlight the water refill kit.
6. October 11, 2021 Coast Sweep at Duck Harbor and the Gut at 9 AM: Massachusetts Coastal Management provided a waiver that all volunteers will sign when we arrive. We'll have paper tally sheets for what we find. Marine debris will be separated out. Wellfleet is allowed four trailers of Marine waste free each year. We have grain bags as well as trash bags. We'll put good condition recyclables into the grain bags and trash into the trash bags. Last time we dumped, sorted and counted the trash in the parking lot. Christine S bought five metal grabbers that were a bit heavy. Amazon refunded them. Christine S will bring the fusti with water to refill, ropes, grabbers and grain bags. Lydia will bring pencils and paperwork.
7. DPW FY22 Budget, Refill Stations and Swap Shop: SwapShop is not on the capital budget right now. Jay (DPW) said 20K was put into the DPW budget for town water stations. We provided info from Eastham and Orleans Water commissioners for what they have installed to the DPW.

Normal FY budget occurs at Spring Town Meeting. The December 4, 2021 Town Meeting is considering budget items that were up in the air due to the town's accounting issues last year. \$1500 was prior RC operating budget, and we may propose \$2000 to \$ 3000 for this year. \$500 for Community Cutlery, money for website and printing. Christine S will pull out our last budget from 2019. RC members should submit ideas for FY 2022 budget items at our November meeting. Christine S will speak with the town administrator about when we should submit our budget. Jay (DPW) will speak with the Harbormaster about our obligations to install the sponsored water stations that were donated.

8. Chamber of Commerce Membership:

\$125 annual membership allows us to put info into the Chamber of Commerce monthly newsletter (which we haven't done in the past). We are currently members. We all agreed that it will be good to continue subscribing. Nancy will send RC updates to the Chamber each month and will coordinate with Chris W and the RC Facebook and Instagram updates.

Chris W observed large amounts of shell refuse at a restaurant fundraiser being dumped into trash rather than recycling them at the Transfer Station. Chris W suggested restaurants have different bins for compost, recyclables, trash etc. London does that and it would be good to get local restaurants to do that. Currently there is no organized food waste compost pick-up for restaurants. The recycling is all single stream which is often contaminated. Lydia said RC offered recycling at the Elementary School Spaghetti Supper. Maybe we can see if the RC can offer recycling for other fundraiser dinners. Lydia moves we approve Chamber of Commerce membership, Jane seconded, all approved 6-0.

9. Recycling News Flyer or Bookmark: Hilary is seeing if there is an Americorps volunteer who can do some art for our flyer/bookmark.

10. Compost Outreach: No news

11. Plastic reduction:

a. Aquaculture: Tom Siggia (Shellfish Advisory Board) submitted the DEP microgrant to reduce shellfish plastics, but has not yet heard back.

b. NIPS/Universal Redemption Law: Christine S shared her research into the Falmouth and Mashpee efforts. Falmouth Litter Reduction team did a survey of roadside trash and found 32% was NIPS, which was powerful information in their petition. At their 2020 Town Meeting Falmouth passed the NIPS ban.

Pick up Mashpee is an organization that got the support of 500 residents who signed a petition to put this on Town Meeting; the Mashpee Board of Selectmen voted to institute the NIPS ban so it didn't go onto town meeting. The 100 ml minimum size

limitation to alcohol became effective July 2021. Liquor store owners were the only protesters.

These NIPS bans grew out of concern for littering and drunk driving rather than a plastics waste issue. The Conservation Trust Fund asks Adopt a Highway volunteers to count NIPS and masks picked up as a percentage of total trash. Audubon may also collect this information which might help if we ever want to propose a ban here.

12. Updates:

a. Commercial Water Bottle Ban, Outreach: Decals are for businesses who offer free refill tap water for visitors. Christine S made the refill station map public, but it wasn't searchable. Jill (Care for Cape Cod) reached out to the National Park Service for water stations to add to maps. The Chamber of Commerce plans to put the map on their social media and we will ask if they will put it on their website as well. Jill will check if the Cape Cod Chamber can post different town maps on their website. Next year when we print and distribute the decals we can put a QR code on them as well. Discussion continued on to the possibility of bringing a water refill bottle kit (stainless steel branded bottles, canned water, decals, water station maps) around to show local businesses how they might help their customers see the positive message in the bottle ban. Lydia suggested that the Nauset Regional High School (NRHS) Green Club might like to do this, but they would not be able to respond to the many secondary questions the businesses would likely have. Secondary questions would give us the opportunity to discuss the best recyclable food containers as well. Christine S prefers to do all this water refill info sharing online, unless somebody else wants to take this on. We can start with an email blast from the Chamber of Commerce and then do targeted outreach. Black food containers are not recyclable but can be disposed of in the bulk plastic bin at the Transfer Station.

b. Social Media Posts: Christine S shared two QR codes Chris W did a couple of posts. 400 followers. She has some updates for her next posts. Let Chris W know when we photograph the community cutlery because she can help take photographs. Social Media sites are often the best outlets for recycling packaging material as well.

d. Community Cutlery/Library of Things: There was one loan in October for a wedding, and they added donations when they returned the items.

September 7, 2021 Minutes: Christine S moved to accept the minutes as amended, Jane seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Accounting Report: Christine S sent a summary to the RC this week. The Wellfleet town accountant keeps including DPW Recycling Project money (RDP or SMART) in our budget, but Christine S didn't include that in the summary. She will ask Jean at DPW what those funds are, and whether any are meant for RC.

Correspondence/Future Agenda Items: Nancy picked up a summary of the Expenditure Ledger, which she will bring to Christine S.

Meeting adjourned: Lydia moved to adjourn the meeting, Chris W seconded and the motion passed 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 12:17 PM.

Next meeting: November 2, 2021, 11 AM

Minutes prepared by Nancy Najmi