

WELLFLEET RECYCLING COMMITTEE
Minutes for November 2, 2021 at 11:00 AM
Virtual Zoom Meeting, Recorded

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

Others Present: Kari Parcell MassDEP

Lydia Vivante called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

Announcements:

Generac has a small solar generator that is 50% more efficient than traditional solar panels

1. Updates:

- a) Transfer Station/Recycling Center: Mike Cicale sent an email update since he was unable to attend today's meeting. We're taking the trash to SEMASS since the New Bedford facility is overwhelmed. Many people brought their food waste to the compost bins at the Transfer Station (TF). Olivia posted info about food composting onto the Wellfleet Facebook page. Lydia called Wellfleet Health Administrator Hillary Greenberg-Lemos to remind her to send the notice to townspeople about composting food waste.
- b) Energy and Climate Action Committee: Carol Magenau is unable to join us today. She reported to Lydia that the outer cape towns have formed a new group: Outer Cape Climate Committees (OCCC) which includes Eastham, Orleans, Wellfleet, Truro, and is hoping Provincetown will join.
- c) MassDEP / Barnstable County / Cape Cod Commission (CCC): Feasibility study is being wrapped up: Presentation meetings will be held on November 10 at 9 AM, November 17 at 4 PM, and November 18. Kari will share links to the presentations which will focus on the cost-benefit of different strategies such as looking at divertibles, and how to deal with difficult to recycle materials. Kari hasn't heard much about storm damage waste issues related to the October 27, 2021 Nor'easter. Holiday light recycling will resume this year. Kari picked up and recycled 6000 tons last year. Americorp is working with Kari. Wellfleet, Dennis, Sandwich are opting out -- they will have residents deposit lights in bins at their own transfer stations. Other 12 towns will utilize MassDEP program to give the materials to a vendor like New England Scrap. Chris W will start to post information about holiday light recycling.
- d) New Swap Shop progress: The December 4, 2021 Town Meeting is for FY22. Christine needs to contact Jay (DPW) about RC interest in a petition to fund a new Swap Shop in FY23. Would the DPW planned Transfer Station engineering study planned for FY23 allow time for new building if it were funded?
- e) Refill Stations: Marina water station equipment is on-site (since 2019) but installation is still pending. Christine S. suggested the Beach Sticker Office as an alternate location. Lydia thinks it's good to have a water station at the Harbormaster's because of the Recreation Dept. stage [music, square dances etc.] is nearby. Jay's DPW 2020 funding might be able to afford a better water bubbler for town hall. Olivia suggested checking with DPW if the marina refill station could be installed at the Beach Sticker Office. Someone from the water commission had volunteered to install a town hall (Neil) refill station, but Christine S has not been able to get hold of him. Jaya wonders if we need to get a different volunteer for the town hall water station.
- f) Annual Calendar notes: Christine S volunteered to maintain our calendar and bring it up before meetings to make sure we don't miss any important deadlines. We need to get a scannable QR code

for the Discovery map. Annual fee for domain registration \$25 per year, look for a cheaper option next year. Add domain registration to the calendar. Chris W says that \$17 to \$19 is standard, so it is not worth the effort to save from the current \$25. RC paid Wix.com \$156 for one year, but gives a discount for two years. Best not to switch right now.

2. WASTE REDUCTION:

Review of local events

a) Shuck and Run water stations: Olivia and Nancy were at library station, Christine S and Lydia were at Kendrick Ave Mayo Beach Station. Olivia noted we need a garbage can 20 yards beyond water table at Library station. Volunteers were given nice tee shirts.

b) Coast Sweep beach cleanup: Ocean Conservancy is tabulating our trash counts. Jane suggested using bins to sort trash. Lydia liked the grabbers, Christine S found them too heavy.

c) Free Wellfleet, a town-wide driveway-based free “yard sale” weekend was held on October 3, 2021: Early Saturday rain showers kept some people from signing up. There were originally fifteen people signed up, but Christine S sent emails to those who signed up for Saturday to see if they wanted to switch to Sunday due to the forecast, and a couple of people bowed out. She got an email with some great feedback from a resident who only heard about this through a neighbor. How do we advertise this in the future? Ptown Independent, email blast, Facebook, Chamber -- and next time add COA newsletter, sandwich board with poster at the transfer station or town hall were some ideas suggested. Chris W suggests announcing it earlier next time. Olivia will find out if TS is doing an amnesty day and if Free Wellfleet can be coordinated with that. Christine S said the Friends of Wellfleet Library has a flyer announcing they are beginning to take book donations. Chris W will put the library flyer on the RC website.

Plastic Reduction Initiatives

a) Plastic Water Bottle Ban: Jaya suggested watching the video “Mr Trash Wheel”. The link is on the agenda. Is Sustainable Practices going to do any next steps after the bottle ban? Kari said Sandwich is having a special town meeting on November 15 to repeal the water bottle ban. She is not sure if this is true, and doesn’t know if other towns are considering this. MassDEP Municipal Recycling is interested in how the RC worked with SPAT during Oyster Fest 2019 to use reusable items, recycling shells, etc., so Christine S has agreed to speak about the plastic reduction RC facilitated at Oyster Fest. Kari will give Christine the link.

b) Reduce Aquaculture Plastics grant: SPAT applied for this, grant is still being reviewed.

c) Nips ban / Universal Redemption law: We can ask Sustainable Practices about this and see how Maine is doing.

d) Packaging / Reusable Container Survey: Terry Frazier at Senior Center feels like it would be too much work for Maryann’s cafe to deal with cleaning reusable containers. We discussed various models of re-using customer containers. Olivia said Pure Vita (store in Eastham - plastic reduction store) will take candy wrappers. Olivia will send the posts to the RC. Kari said be careful about movements like candy

wrapper bins. Because then people think incorrectly that the wrappers are recyclable. Are the companies truly recycling the wrappers? Lydia looked up wrappers on Recycle Smart which says put them in the trash.

e) Community Cutlery / Library of Things: We want to get another fusti to keep at the recreation center.

3. **OUTREACH MATERIALS**

Website and Social Media posts: Olivia is mastering WIX. Nancy worked with Chris W to write a RC update for the November Chamber newsletter. For the next Chamber newsletter we want to write about recycling holiday stuff. Chris W asked for a copy of the Christmas recycling flyer from last year. Textile recycling flyers - An Americorps volunteer might be able to help us with the artwork. Jaya will check with Audubon to see if they need towels etc.

October 5, 2021 Minutes: Jane moved to accept the minutes as amended, Jaya seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Accounting Report: Christine S shared the request for funding that she had prepared for submission to the finance committee in a prior year. Do we want to ask for more funds, perhaps to install the water bubblers? DPW estimate for installation was \$3000 for town hall water station. Or do we wait for DPW FY23 funds to install the refill stations, which that will take more time. If we install more than one the money will be over \$5000 which will need to go out to bid. Lydia would like to buy more printed materials, sandwich boards, etc. RC got \$1500 this year (haven't spent much), \$1200 previous years. We will decide next meeting. We need more money for WIX, domain registration, etc. Christine S will put in the costs we know about, and will round up for inflation.

Correspondence/Future Agenda Items: Erica neighborhood centered Facebook group from New York City.

Committee Vacancies: Two alternates

Meeting adjourned: Jaya moved to adjourn the meeting, Jane seconded and the motion passed 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 12:13 PM.

Next meeting: December 7, 2021, 11 AM

Minutes prepared by Nancy Najmi