

WELLFLEET RECYCLING COMMITTEE
Minutes for December 7, 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), Mike Cicale (Wellfleet Transfer Station), Carol Mageneau (Wellfleet Energy & Climate Action Committee)

Christine Shreves called the meeting to order at 11:02 AM.

Announcements:

Lydia observed the Swap Shop was looking clean and organized.

1. UPDATES:

a) Transfer Station/Recycling Center:

- Mike Cicale supports a new Swap Shop but wants to wait for the DPW feasibility study to be complete before taking action so that the overall layout and long-term plans of the Transfer Station (TS) are determined before construction of the new Swap Shop building begins. He believes the location rather than the design of the Swap Shop will be affected by the DPW feasibility study. Mike thinks the January 2020 estimate for a new Swap Shop building was about \$60,000, but with the large increase in construction costs over the past two years, new quotes are needed.
- The Wellfleet Transfer Station earned 19 Recycling Dividends Program (RDP) points which netted us \$11,400. The mattress recycling program and the pay as you throw (PAYT) program are the types of initiatives that help earn RDP points. This money is usually used to buy a new recycling container. The monetary awards associated with RDP points are prorated based on population, so if Boston earned 19 RDP points they would get much more money, commensurate with their larger population. Lydia asked if this is what Selectboard member Janet Reinhart was referring to when she said that we were ranked at 7th in the state for recycling. Kari doesn't know from top of her head where Wellfleet stands compared to other Cape Cod towns, but Chatham, Brewster, and Wellfleet were the top 3 RDP recipients.
- Holiday lights may be recycled in the blue recycling bucket which is set out next to the electronics table.

b) Energy and Climate Action Committee: Carol Magenau said the committee has received a grant to do an engineering study for rebuilding low level roads that are vulnerable to sea level rise. Carol said they pushed the Cape Cod Commission (CCC) to do this. There is a 4 pm workshop

tomorrow (December 8, 2021) about choosing the two roads that are the highest priority for the Sea-level rise vulnerability engineering study. Carol had no news about solar panels at the TS.

- c) MassDEP / Barnstable County / Cape Cod Commission (CCC): Kari summarized regional recycling efforts:
- Americorps will again coordinate holiday light recycling for Cape Cod communities. Wellfleet recycles holiday lights independently and will not participate in the Americorps effort.
 - Efforts to facilitate fake tree recycling and latex recycling are ongoing.
 - There is a new vendor in town reaching out to municipalities about delivering clean glass to Marlborough which will then be sent to a plant in Connecticut to be reformatted into aggregate for roads. The town of Dennis has been building a similar program. Dennis sold some loads of processed glass to Robert B. Our (a Cape Cod construction company) and found they have more options than they had in 2019. In response to Christine S' question about whether Dennis DPW makes any money on this, Kari explained the money was not significant but that Dennis Transfer Station foreman Chad Contonio felt it was the best alternative to reusing glass. The processed glass has had a Beneficial Use Determination (BUD) in place since 2018/2019. Lydia read there is a glass shortage. Kari noted there doesn't appear to be a wine bottle shortage but there may be fewer glass beer bottles as canned beer has risen in popularity.
- d) New Swap Shop progress: Christine S questioned whether the TS feasibility study will be completed by FY 23 and summarized Jay's response (DPW) to our email about funding for the new Swap Shop in FY23:
- Records covering the last five years indicate some question about the historical nature of the Swap Shop which has not yet been addressed.
 - The building inspector should look at the current shop to see what needs to be done to make the shop safe in the meantime.

Questions about the Swap Shop:

- How shall the RC proceed?
- Do we wait for the feasibility study?
- Is there truly a historical concern with the old building? Lydia used to be on the Wellfleet Historical Commission and thinks the building may have more sentimental than historical value.

- Can the old building be repurposed, or the lumber used elsewhere in the TS or beyond? The structure apparently dates back to the 1920's so there is probably some quality wood that can be repurposed.
- If the building inspector deems the current Swap Shop unsafe for current usage are there interim fixes that can be done?
- How do we ensure that there is sufficient money for constructing a new Swap Shop building in FY24?
- How does the RC get an article placed on the spring town meeting warrant? Do we bring it to the Select Board first?

Christine S explained that Jay (DPW) has budgeted \$50,000 for an engineering study of the TS that will look at the allocation of space, considering safety issues and future waste diversion measures. Lydia suggested we write a letter stating the RC support for a new building after the study is complete. Jaya wondered if one potential benefit of waiting before constructing the new Swap Shop might be decreased construction material costs.

Nancy left the meeting at 11:30 and took the remaining notes from the recorded zoom meeting.

- e) Annual Calendar Notes (Discovery Map): Lydia remembers writing to Lisa Benson a while back about the cost for using her icons on the Discovery Map, but has not heard back. She will follow up. Christine S shared the calendar notes for seasonal tasks of the RC. She added Wix domain registration (October) and website premium plan subscriptions (September). The cost for printed recycling information inserts for inclusion in the (outsourced) property tax bills were deemed too expensive and therefore removed from the list. The reason for including the November deadline for Community Preservation applications is that some towns have used that funding for water refill stations. Winter tasks include budget increase requests for December, RC Annual Report for January (due February 1), and Entertainment and Business License applications which might provide opportunities for mailing inserts (not outsourced) related to recycling/water refill stations (with Select Board approvals). Lydia will find out about the deadlines for the Entertainment license applications.

2. WASTE REDUCTION: Lydia mentioned that there would be a holiday fair/tree lighting/sing-a-long at the Town Hall on Saturday December 11 to benefit the Wellfleet Elementary School, could be a future waste reduction opportunity.

Plastic Reduction Initiatives:

- a) Plastic Water Bottle Ban/Refill Cape Cod: Christine S will do the QR code for using the water refill map and will add the recently added National Seashore water refill stations to the map.
- b) Reduce Aquaculture Plastics grant: In an email Tom Siggia (Wellfleet Shellfish Advisory Board) said the DEP has been in touch and wanted additional information. Lydia suggested that perhaps he will join us at our next meeting.
- c) Nips ban / Universal Redemption law / Bottle Bill Expansion: Mass PIRG and the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) recently set up a meeting pertaining to the bottle bill expansion.
- d) Packaging / Reusable Container Survey: Lydia's conversations in October with the Adult Community Center about washable takeout containers for MaryAnn's Cafe concluded with the Cafe deciding it is too time-consuming an endeavor. We need to continue the conversation keeping in mind that it is a town policy to reduce plastic waste.
- e) Community Cutlery / Library of Things: Christine S received a call from a resident who needed glasses for a memorial service, but we did not have enough glasses at the time. Nancy picked up 24 wine flutes at the Swap Shop and is holding them for the Library of Things. Chris W has volunteered to photograph the things for our own RC catalog, and we should talk to Naomi at the library about including photos in the library catalog. Chris W and Christine S plan to meet to take photographs.

3. OUTREACH MATERIALS

- a) Website and Social Media posts: Chris W will use information from the Holiday Recycling Guide in the RC Instagram posts.
- b) Chamber of Commerce newsletter: Nancy and Chris W worked on a blurb for the Chamber of Commerce newsletter. Nancy emailed the blurb to the Chamber but did not see it in the November newsletter.
- c) Holiday Recycling Guide printing/posting: Lydia printed the holiday recycling guide and put it on the RC website. She will post it around town at the Library, Senior Center, Town Hall, Post Office and other businesses. Lydia has asked a printing company in Orleans for the cost to print some signs on rigid plastic or aluminum for use at the Transfer Station. Christine S suggests that we do an email blast with the Holiday Recycling Guide.
- d) Textile Recycling flyer: Lydia wrote to Hillary to ask if the Americorps volunteer had done anything with the textile recycling flyer but has not heard back. When Jaya contacted Audubon about old towels they told her they didn't need them but once the cold-stunned turtles were washing up on shore Audubon put out a request for donated towels.

e) Compost in the news: No news.

4. FUTURE CONCERNS

a) Annual Town Report (due Feb 1st): We will complete this in January.

Minutes: Christine S shared the November 2, 2021 Recycling Committee minutes on her screen. Lydia made a motion to approve the minutes, Olivia seconded and the members voted to approve the minutes 6-0.

Accounting Report: Christine S submitted receipts for reimbursement from the town. She will do that for the domain name fee that Lydia paid also.

Correspondence: None.

Committee vacancies: two alternates

Next meeting: JANUARY 4, 2022

Minutes prepared by Nancy Najmi