

**WELLFLEET RECYCLING COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes for January 4, 2022 at 11:00 AM**  
**Virtual Zoom Meeting, Recorded**

**Members present:** Nancy Najmi, Christine Shreves, Lydia Vivante, Jane Sharp, Olivia Kraus, Jaya Karlson.  
Others Present: Kari Parcell (MassDEP), Carol Magenau (Wellfleet Energy & Climate Action Committee), Tom Siggia (Shellfish Advisory Board).

Lydia Vivante called the meeting to order at 11:03 AM.

**Announcements:**

MLK Day events:

- January 17, 2022 11:45 AM there will be a Martin Luther King event in Wellfleet Center.
- Americorps MLK beach cleanups all over Cape Cod sponsored by CARE for the Cape and Islands  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdgmj21pdYTjpZkqUcfHOA5VvpM8lIeqW5JdQxYqebCy2DN\\_Q/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdgmj21pdYTjpZkqUcfHOA5VvpM8lIeqW5JdQxYqebCy2DN_Q/viewform)

1. **UPDATES:**

a) Transfer Station / Recycling Center: Mike Cicale was unable to attend but emailed an update.

“In 2021 we saw 6.34 tons for Food Waste compost. 2020 saw 4.4 tons but that was because of the plague closures. 2019 only had 5.63 tons so we have seen an increase in Food Waste Composting since the program began.

We filled a 96 gallon container of holiday lights. I don't have a weight yet.

Now that we are in snow season it's a good time to remind folks that if it's snowing, the Transfer Station may be closed so the staff here can assist with snow and ice removal. If you wake up and find that several inches of snow have fallen overnight, there may be a delayed opening. Its a good idea to call first in those instances.”

b) Energy & Climate Action Committee liaison: Carol noted that the solar grid has been connected to the town, and was reported in the Provincetown Independent. They are now looking for grants to provide electric vehicles to towns. An electric school bus costs \$330,000 and will be talking about this at tonight's Select Board meeting. Lydia noted that Provincetown has many Prius hybrids in their traffic enforcement fleet and that the popular Ford F150 truck is going electric and the town may want to get on a wait list for one of these. Christine S shared information from a UMass article about a company that is converting trucks from diesel to electric.

- c) Annual Town Report -- due Feb 1: RC membership additions of Nancy Najmi and Olivia Kraus will be added to the report. Christine S will put together a draft report next week, then she and Lydia will finalize it by February 1, 2022.
- d) Annual Calendar notes: Lydia added a March task of creating digital content and posters for the harbormaster to email to boat owners and to post at the marina as the boating season starts.
- e) MassDEP / Barnstable County / Cape Cod Commission: Kari summarized as follows: Wellfleet is recognized as one of the fifteen Cape towns that are recycling Christmas lights, even though they are not part of the Americorps effort since they are pulling the lights apart themselves and recycling the metal directly. Wellfleet generously hosted boat shrinkwrap recycling last year and will be expanding with an additional container for this. Many towns, Wellfleet included, are allowing free Christmas tree recycling into their brush piles, without a TS sticker. On January 11, 2022 at 10:30 Kari will be hosting a Quarterly Review meeting with Cape Cod DPW and TS staff to share information with committees. On December 2, 2021 she presented vendor information to local RCs and TS staff. She hopes to present the Feasibility Study to the CCC in February, 2022. Kari is asking municipalities to find representatives to be in an informal solid waste working group. The Solid Waste Master plan is out and has some changes including mattress disposal and food compost. As the grant season is rolling around Kari is seeing more waste reduction programs coming back. While Wellfleet does well earning Recycling Dividend Program (RDP) points each year, other transfer stations are motivated by the competition to improve their RDP points.
- f) Public Works Refill Stations progress: Christine S was pleased to report that the DPW put \$20,000 into their FY 2023 budget for the installation of water refill stations. The Select Board approved this budget item at a second meeting where the intent was clarified. However it is not clear how the RC will work with the DPW and how we can combine funds to get more water refill stations installed, but at least we will get the Town Hall and Harbormaster refill stations installed. The RC will meet Jay and Jan of the DPW in February to finalize installation plans.
- g) Swap Shop, new building: Jay suggested that Roland get the current building inspected for now until FY 2024 when DPW will fund a new one.

## **2. WASTE REDUCTION:**

### Plastic Reduction Initiatives:

- a) Plastic Water Bottle Ban/Refill Cape Cod: See Discovery Map ad summary under Outreach.

b) Reduce Aquaculture Plastics grant: Tom explained that we didn't get the microgrant. The state requested additional data about the retention rate of the proposed reusable bungees. Tom was unable to confidently acquire this information from shellfish grant holders on short notice and did not want to claim a 95% retention rate as desired by the state without confirmation from the stakeholders. However, Tom is seeing an uptick in the use of bungees over disposable zip ties by shellfishermen. Tom met with a huge shellfish grant holder who has devised a bungee system that he wants to market. His system allows him to use one bungee to close the bag and attach it to the rack. He buys lines of bungee and makes these fasteners in his spare time. This has reduced his loss to the harbor and has saved him time and resources. The SAB chairperson saw the system and was impressed. Other shellfishermen have expressed an interest in this and Tom thinks this is a good possible solution to the zip tie plastic waste problem in the harbor. There are other shellfishermen who have already traded in zip ties for bungees. Tom expressed his thoughts that the shellfishermen are a creative group who for the most part do not like using plastics, and perhaps the guidelines and rules for new grant holders may be revised to require the use of bungees rather than zip ties. Lydia thought this idea warranted an article in the paper.

c) Bottle Bill Expansion / Universal Redemption law: The Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) has provided a toolkit for individuals and municipalities to promote the expansion of the bottle bill to increase deposits to \$0.10 and to expand the scope of bottles included. Currently redemption centers must sort all bottles according to the distributor and get about \$0.02 per item. Universal redemption would eliminate the sorting by distributor.

d) Packaging / Reusable Container Survey: Lydia emailed a friend on the COA community center committee to talk to the group about reusable containers at MaryAnn's Cafe.

e) Community Cutlery / Library of Things: The newly acquired (24) champagne flutes are good for wine as well.

### **3. OUTREACH MATERIALS**

a) Discovery Map ad: Thanks to Lissa Benson of Discovery Maps for agreeing to include an ad for Refill Cape Cod and a link to the water refill station map. The Discovery map is a hand drawn 2 sided color map with businesses in town that is provided free (for tourists). There is a digital map as well. This spring we will work on more outreach for the map to try to engage with and highlight businesses who have agreed to provide water for people to refill bottles.

- b) Website and Social Media posts: Olivia added the MLK day events to our website. Perhaps Chris W can post the MLK day events and a reminder about the Transfer Station snow policies (see Transfer Station updates above) on Facebook and Instagram.
- c) Chamber of Commerce newsletter: We need to talk to the Chamber about whether they do a newsletter each month and the process for getting information included. We currently have a \$35 credit to do an email blast to all Chamber members. Lydia suggested doing seasonal email blasts. Do we want to do a textile recycling flyer now, a water refill update in the summer, OysterFest [Wellfleet Oyster Week] related items in the fall?
- e) Provincetown Independent item or ad: We discussed asking the Provincetown Independent about space for us to submit recycling tips, green tips, etc. and whether we could submit graphics/artwork or strictly text. Possible ideas for articles are about the Green REfill Store in Brewster and Purevita in Eastham both of which provide means for refilling personal care and house cleaning products in plastic bottles. We committee members should email any ideas we have in this regard to [wellfleetrecycles@gmail.com](mailto:wellfleetrecycles@gmail.com) then we can connect with the recycling committees in the other Outer Cape towns to consolidate our efforts.
- f) Holiday and Textile Recycling Guide printing/posting: The Holiday Recycling Guide has been posted around town and the Textile Recycling guide is ready to go.
- g) Compost in the news: The curbside compost pick up service in Newton, MA is working well and seeing good participation rates.

## REPORTS

Minutes: Jane moved we accept the December 7, 2021 minutes, Jaya seconded all voted to approve them 6-0.

Accounting Report: The town accountant's goal is to have monthly accounting reports.

Correspondence: Nancy will check the RC mail at Town Hall today.

Committee vacancies: two alternates

## FUTURE CONCERNS Nips ban

Next meeting: FEBRUARY 1, 2022