

**WELLFLEET RECYCLING COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes for September 13, 2022 at 11:00 PM**  
**Virtual Zoom Meeting, Recorded**

**Members present:** Lydia Vivante, Christine Shreves, Nancy Najmi, Olivia Kraus, Chris Wisniewski.

**Others Present:** Carol Magenau (Wellfleet Energy & Climate Action Committee), Lee Bartell (Eastham Recycling Committee)

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

**1) UPDATES**

**a) Town Meeting single serve plastic bottle ban, report:** The bottle ban was approved by a majority vote at the September 10, 2022 Town Meeting. Christine S did an amazing job in explaining the article precisely and clearly. The ban goes into effect May 1, 2023.

**b) Transfer Station/Recycling Center / Thanks to Shrink Wrap volunteers:** Thank you to Christine Shreves, her sister Ingrid, Olivia Kraus and Carol Magenau for volunteering with the shrink wrap clean-up. It was a stinky yet rewarding job. Mike Cicale of the Wellfleet Transfer Station emailed an update to the Recycling Committee:

“On Thursday, the five Boat Shrink Wrap host towns (Wellfleet, Eastham, Chatham/Dennis, and Bourne brought all 5.25 tons of collected plastic wrap to Republic Services in Brockton, where it was turned into 7 bales. This plastic will be used domestically to make things like plastic lids on coffee cans, wire insulation, or new boat wrap. At approx. 20lbs of wrap per boat, we collected about 525 boats worth cape wide. Wellfleet had 1.63 tons (after sorting) which is about 163 boats worth. This was a great success, opening a new market for the wrap which was not there last year. The hope is that we can now get other coastal areas in the state to participate and do more promotion locally. Thank you so much to all of you that were able to come help go through it on those hot days!

We also received 4 new Food Waste Composting containers. They are made of 40% post-consumer recycled plastic, 10% of which is “Ocean Bound”. The company is called Rehrig Pacific and they partner with other countries to collect plastic litter from rivers and waterways before it gets to the ocean. Buying things made from recycled materials helps grow those markets which will make our Towns Recycling more valuable. The containers were purchased with RDP grant money. We needed more because our Food

Waste Composting program is growing. Last year we had 6.34 tons. As of this writing, we are at 6.55 tons with 3 months left to go.

There have been ongoing issues with the PAYT bags. It seems like when one issue is resolved, another comes up. They are having supply issues and shipping issues like many companies. The last email I saw from them looked like all the store orders had been shipped.”

**c) Hazardous Waste Days:** Saturday 10/1 in PTown

**d) Energy & Climate Action Committee liaison:** The Energy & Climate Action Committee recently hosted a presentation on what people can do about climate change. The initial presentation was not well attended, but Carol hopes tomorrow’s presentation on electric cars (7 PM at the library) will be better attended. Carol is unsure if these are recorded, although there are visual presentations.

**e) MassDEP/Barnstable County:** No update.

**f) Community Cutlery/Library of Things:** Lydia used google sheets to put images of items into each cell to make it easier for browsing.

**g) Eastham Recycling Committee column proposal ‘Did you know that?’:** Lee Bartell is having a tough time getting in touch with Ed Miller at the Provincetown Independent to confirm the details. She sent an initial brief article with links to recycle smart and composting but has not heard back and will not give up. Truro’s one-member Recycling Committee has moved away. Christine S suggests we send one of our social media posts to Lee to forward to the Independent. Lydia suggested an (RC) timeline for articles: paint recycling in September, textile recycling in October, and food waste in November. We can see if Jarod Cabral from the Truro DPW would like to send any info to Lee. At Windmill Day in Eastham this past weekend the Eastham Recycling Committee had a table and got 75 responses to their 5-question survey about recycling. In 2 years the whole DPW will be renovated so Eastham is looking to get a huge composter for the town that is odor free. Lee will send results of the surveys to Lydia.

## **2) WASTE REDUCTION**

**a) Carry In Carry Out signs, feedback:** Olivia hasn’t heard feedback, but she has noticed that the mystery piles of trash are no longer being left where she regularly walks. Christine S noted that Great Island and Duck Harbor tend to accumulate trash piles by well-meaning people. The Select Board is interested in increasing signage discouraging leaving trash. Olivia suggested the signs can be taken down when trash receptacles are provided in the summer.

**b) Refill Cape Cod outreach (Discovery Map, Decals):** We used a decal on our water container at the September 10, 2022 town meeting. Christine S doesn’t know if the

Discovery Map water station locators had any impact or not. The installation of the refill water stations were taken off the Town Meeting vote until free cash is available.

Christine S has been trying for three years to get these installed. Orleans applied for Community Preservation Funds to install their water stations. We may want to follow that path. The deadline for Community Preservation funds is October 17. The Select Board would like to see a water refill station outside Town Hall.

**c) Reduce Aquaculture Plastics:** Canadian lobster is a product that is associated with Right Whale entanglement and is on the Seafood Watch red list [avoid].

**d) Reusable Food Containers pilot / survey:** No updates.

### **3) CALENDAR NOTES**

**OCT 8** Boomerang Bags sewing bee, Wellfleet Library, 2 to 5PM: Erica Gorn who created the Outer Cape program gave us \$565 that has been deposited into our merchandise account. Labels are \$1 each and are printed in Provincetown. 100% cotton works best for printing. The bags were sold for \$15 to \$30 at the library. Sharon Rule-Agger will be the leader. There is a lot of material left over from prior years. Christine S made straps for the bags during COVID and will bring them.. People are encouraged to bring their own sewing machines. Chris W asked Lydia to send some flyers to be posted. Christine S made a motion which Olivia seconded to spend \$150 to order cloth labels for the bags naming Wellfleet rather than Cape Cod. The motion was approved 5-0.

**OCT 9** Shuck N' Run 5K water stations, 8AM setup, 9AM race start time: This is the weekend before Oysterfest. Christine S and Nancy have volunteered to work the water tables. Christine S noted that the Recreation Department has handled most of the logistics. We will check the weather if we need the tent.

**OCT 10** CoastSweep volunteers will meet at Mayo Beach, 9AM: Lydia will bring grabbers from the Transfer Station shed, Christine S will bring the grain sacks. We'll tally the types of trash at the end. We'll meet at Duck Harbor at the end to tally up the trash. Chris W will make a post to seek volunteers. Lydia will send Chris W the email for Denny who is coordinating Coast Sweep and get information from the Massachusetts Coastal Management Department to Chris W.

**OCT 29** Boomerang Bags sewing bee, Wellfleet Library, 2 to 5PM

### **4) OUTREACH**

**a) Educational materials, Farmers Market, OysterFest:** The Farmer's Market will go until early October, then there will be a Harvest Festival at Wellfleet Preservation Hall. We won't have a presence at OysterFest.

**b) Plastic water bottle alternatives at community dinners:** The Lobster roll dinners at the Masonic Hall were selling plastic water bottles and using plastic bags. Olivia noted the bags were not even needed. Lydia knows a couple of masons with whom she will check. Christine S suggested we create a flyer for businesses about the water bottle ban and intent. She will start to put information together. Olivia noted the Marketplace was selling 20 ounce bottles of "Smart Water" which is unflavored and should not be an exception. Lydia will talk to the town administrator about enforcement issues.

**c) Community Cutlery+ catalog / Google Sheet:** Lydia shared the google sheet which is easy to edit. Do we want to package items so there are not as many entries? For example grouping sets of silverware with napkins. Also we could group silverware into 20 piece units. Lydia is keeping her eye on a donation of 300 wine glasses to AIM.

**d) Website and Social Media posts:** Chris W has been focusing on alternative products, collecting images on Schwepps tonic without any plastic holding them together-just cardboard, has posted info about Bamboo tableware, pressed paper tops for beverage cups, etc. and has up to 560 followers. She also has a post about compostable produce bags at Friend's Market Orleans which can be composted in backyard compost bins. Since latex paint recycling runs April to October maybe we should focus on advertising this right now.

**MINUTES:** Christine made a motion to approve the minutes from August 2, 2022. Chris W seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

**ACCOUNTING REPORT/EXPENSES:** Christine S reported that she purchased (for the RC) Cold Cups, a new tent, paid Wix fees, will pay the Chamber of Commerce membership (due Nov. 12), and will buy labels for the boomerang bags. Olivia made a motion to approve the expenses, Chris W seconded, and it was approved 5-0.

**VACANCIES** 1 regular, 2 alternates

**Next meeting:** OCTOBER 4, 2022

Meeting Adjourned at 12:12