

WELLFLEET RECYCLING COMMITTEE
Minutes for December 6, 2022 at 11:00 AM
Virtual Zoom Meeting, Recorded

Members present: Lydia Vivante, Christine Shreves, Nancy Najmi (left at 12), Jaya Karlson, Olivia Kraus, Chris Wisniewski.

Others Present: Carol Magenau (Wellfleet Energy & Climate Action Committee), Kari Parcell (MassDEP/Barnstable County), Andrea Marczy (Food Access Coordinator at Cape Cod Cooperative Extension).

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

GUESTS/NEW BUSINESS:

a) Food Rescue.US + Andrea Marczy, Food Access Coordinator, Cape Cod Cooperative

Extension: Andrea is working with Kari in a partnership focusing on the social/economic need and the environmental impact of diverting excess food from the waste stream to food banks. With rising inflation, food pantries are struggling to meet their clients' needs, and towns are struggling to cope with high tipping fees, and as of November 2022 there is a new Massachusetts waste reduction ban on food waste.

In August 2022 a software program to connect excess food from restaurants and shops with food pantries was piloted. The 2023 Food Rescue Initiative intends to provide software from Food Waste.US (\$1000/year once up and running) to food pantries, for free, through grants. A core group of registered volunteers went to find food from restaurants and shops in Barnstable County and rescued it. Andrea and Lydia want to work together on community meetings where they can educate businesses about who to call with excess food, or with food needs.

Christine works with the Wellfleet Food Pantry and wonders if the local relationships already developed will be taken over by this initiative. Andrea replied that food pantries can make their own decision to either continue independently, or they might want to give up some of the food pick-up to the FoodRescue.US project in order to free up their own volunteers for other work.

Andrea is looking off-Cape for food rescue and recently brought 200 cases of protein bars from Pembroke. She is connected with the Greater Boston Food Bank as well. The hope is that excesses can be shared over a greater area, and that the computer software will make it more efficient for organizations to coordinate food pick-up.

Andrea has recruited volunteers from the Outer Cape and plans to link food pantries to the closest restaurant/shop food donors. Christine said that the Greater Boston Food Bank provides food to the Wellfleet Food Pantry. The challenge with local grocery stores is in getting a relationship with each individual department manager, and when there is excess there's a rush of volunteers to pick up. Sometimes the Wellfleet Food Pantry gets too much of an item and it would be good to partner with others to share the excess. Andrea is working with local charities to get the word out.

The Food Rescue Panel Discussion 2023 will be an online Zoom presentation. Lydia has started a spreadsheet with Outer Cape providers that might be good candidates for food rescue. She is focusing on the off-season. Andrea will send an email with possible dates for late January or February and will include MassDEP, Mass Recycling Works as well.

b) MassDEP update: Kari reported that in 2021 they surveyed all waste looking for divertables. Rail haul of waste out of state is the most cost effective. Tetra Tech runs three sub-regional sites that take ½ ton of waste per week from commercial waste generators. Black Earth Compost is the company collecting municipal and residential food waste curbside in many Massachusetts cities and towns. The Yarmouth anaerobic food stock digester takes about 30,000 tons of biosolids annually from about 10 to 15 area towns.

AmeriCorps is partnering with MassDEP. S and J Exco in Dennis will be taking Christmas lights until the end of January. Chris W will post this on Instagram. Kari will post that Boat Shrinkwrap recycling will happen again in 2023, and Latex paint collection will happen on August 6, 2023.

1. UPDATES

a) Transfer Station/Recycling Center, plastics recycling report and Nov.29 Waste Audit: Mike Cicale sent an email with the report for the Waste Audit attached. In response to questions about the audit he replied by email, "Right now the tin and aluminum cans are allowed in the co-mingled. The idea might be to have them both be put into a separate container here at the TS and brought to the scrap yard for revenue.

To get our contamination down I think we should focus on plastic bags and film and maybe those beer can holders and sunglasses as single items to educate people about.

We used to have a sharps container here at the TS. I have found several sharps in various places of the TS over my 8 years here but never enough to fill a box. The decision was made to keep the box at the Fire Department where people are usually directed to bring them. While I've found some over the years, the audit shows us that many more are inside the containers themselves. It might be convenient to collect them at the TS but inviting them into a place where people make many different stops with their materials (i.e. swap shop, metal pile, leaves, recycling and trash) leads me to believe that the chances are greater of finding them all over the place by accident. For the time being I think some signage or social media promotion about the reasons they can't/shouldn't go into the waste stream would be helpful and especially where they can go. I talked to a guy a few months ago that thought it was perfectly fine to put them into a glass jar and throw them in the trash. I honestly don't know much about sharps collection or medical waste so that's something I need to find out."

b) Energy & Climate Action Committee liaison: Suzanne has taken over as acting chair of the committee. They are involved in planning an Electric Car Show in Hyannis on June 3, 2023. They want to invite electric car owners to bring their cars to the show. Chris W. might be able to volunteer her Volt.

A Special Stretch Code above and beyond the new code for Green Communities will be updated next year. They want to publicize this code to residents and contractors.

They are working on a municipal Climate Change Plan as directed by Assistant Town Administrator Rebecca Roughley, in particular how to involve other departments in town. The committee will also look for grant money to accomplish this.

c) Outer Cape Recycling Committees, Provincetown Independent community announcements: The Eastham Recycling Committee plans to visit the Wellfleet Transfer Station on Tuesday January 10, 2023. We are looking for a Provincetown contact to join in this visit. We will put an item in the Provincetown Independent Classifieds about food waste.

d) Library of Things + Community Cutlery: The Library of Things is on the CLAMS system. We have four tableware kits. Assistant Library Director Naomi Czekaj-Robbins is adding items bit by bit. We are looking for non-plastic containers to stack grouped items. Christine will see how many we need, and perhaps spend about \$50-60.

2. CALENDAR NOTES

a) Wellfleet Transfer Station recycling plaza: Drop-off food waste composting visit: Eastham Recycling Committee will visit on January 10, 2023.

b) Boomerang Bags sewing bees at the Wellfleet Library, 2 to 5PM:

Sat DEC 17; Fri JAN 13, Fri FEB 24, Sat MAR 11, Sat APR 15: Chris W will post the sewing bee dates on Instagram.

c) Annual Town Report due FEB 1

d) Discovery Maps deadline? There were 6000 clicks for the Refill Cape google map. Edit the maps to show that the Eastham water refill stations are now installed, not pending.

e) Plastic Beverage Bottle Ban bylaw effective: May 1, 2023

3. OUTREACH / WASTE REDUCTION

a) Educational information: Website and Social Media posts: Draft a flyer for content on MassDEP, local plastic bans, and suggestions for waste reduction. Include information on Food Rescue US. We need to update our information on compostable take-out containers, include a link to our website and a link to Take Care Cape Cod.

ACCOUNTING REPORT: We have about \$800-900 left for FY 2023, but need to confirm this with the Town Treasurer.

VACANCIES 1 regular, 2 alternates

FUTURE CONCERNS

Next meeting: JANUARY 3, 2023