

WELLFLEET RECYCLING COMMITTEE
Minutes for January 3, 2023 at 11:00 AM
Virtual Zoom Meeting, Recorded

Present: Christine Shreves, Chris Wisniewski, Nancy Najmi, Lydia Vivante, Jaya Karlson,
Christine Shreves called the meeting to order at 11:05.

Announcements: France has banned disposable packaging in fast-food restaurants. California has passed a law that requires the composting of food waste.

1) UPDATES

a. Transfer Station/Recycling Center:

Mike Cicale was unable to attend but sent this Waste ban audit video:

<https://vimeo.com/780542438>

b. Outer Cape Recycling Committees, Provincetown Independent item: Lee Bartell of the Eastham Recycling Committee is coordinating this effort to place a recycling blurb in each week's Provincetown Independent Community Classifieds. Fifty words are free, and Chris W. created a classified ad that she will share with the group. Lydia will confirm with Lee before submitting it for the mid-January deadline, as Lee is trying to contact the Provincetown and Truro DPWs for their involvement.

Ideas for future classifieds include food waste, textile recycling, things to avoid throwing into plastics recycling, etc. Providing useful links to recycling resources was discussed. We can update the Wellfleet Recycles website with helpful links - like a recent PBS video that explains why certain items can't go into recycling.

c. Library of Things/Community Cutlery: Assistant Library Director Naomi Czekaj-Robbins has created a category in the catalog for the Library of Things. Christine S and Lydia have organized some of the cutlery into four tableware kits consisting of a compost bucket with napkins and 25 sets of flatware. The library catalog will show photos of what is in the kits, as Chris W takes more photos of the items. The library doesn't want to use the old milk crates which say "do not use". Christine S has purchased eight \$12 wooden crates from Ikea that need to be assembled, and then we will test them for strength. She has spent \$150 so far, leaving \$890 in our Town Budget. We probably need about 25 crates, including some smaller sizes. It will cost about \$400. Lydia said we also have money from boomerang bags and in the gift fund for miscellaneous. We have a \$2000 sponsorship for a water refill station, and additional gift funds of \$2059 including \$500 for a water refill station at the library.

Nancy moved to allocate up to \$500 for the purchase of crates for the Library of Things, Chris W seconded the motion, all voted in favor (5-0)

2) CALENDAR NOTES

a. Eastham Recycling Com. visit to Wellfleet TS, date pending: Lydia will ask Lee Bartell how formal a tour she wants before setting anything up, but hopes to do this soon. Lee is primarily interested in seeing the Residential Drop-Off Food Waste Composting program/wheeled cart. A greater tour of our Transfer Station (and other Outer Cape Transfer Stations) might be interesting for members of the DPW and public. It would be useful to hear from DPW directors on what neighboring towns are planning for recycling. Eastham is making about \$1 million per year by selling their recycling (separating it out). Sorting is done by the public and the town has a baler that helps in the process. We visited Eastham TS in 2016. Let's discuss a potential tour of the Wellfleet Transfer Station with Mike Cicale.

On January 11 Mass DEP is hosting an online meeting for Recycling Committees at 10 AM.

b. Boomerang Bags sewing bee dates: Fri JAN 13, Fri FEB 24, Sat MAR 11, Sat APR 15
Wellfleet Library, 2 to 5PM: Not many new sewers. Marcia Sexton thought we could do more targeted assembly line work at the next sewing bee.

c. Annual Town Report, due by 2/10/23: Christine S will finish the draft this week and send it to Lydia and the Recycling Committee for comments.

d. Discovery Map & Visitors Guide (early Jan) - ReFill Cape Cod ads: Christine S emailed Lisa Benson to see if she will provide free ad space in the Discovery Map again this year. Christine S also sent this ad to the Wellfleet Chamber of Commerce for inclusion in their visitor's guide and asked if there will be room to provide recycling information for visitors to Wellfleet. Lisa can resize the ad for the Chamber guide if they are amenable.

3) OUTREACH

a. Plastic Bottle Ban Bylaw update, effective May 1, 2023

Need to create an educational flyer about new beverage bottle ban, using Lydia's 2021 water bottle ban flyer with water graphic. We can include all the plastic reduction bans along with information on recycling/composting, non-plastic serveware, MassDEP waste bans, and oyster recycling.

b. Recycling Guide brochure? (Eastham, PTown examples): Christine S said we used to do brochures before the Massachusetts recyclesmart cards came out. Since Wellfleet does things that aren't addressed on the recyclesmart card we are going to update our brochure (Lydia has the template and Christine S has the paper) and have it available for visitors and residents. Nancy will take a stab at this during January.

c. Website updates, suggestions?: We need to add vetted links to current useful resources.

d. Social Media posts: Chris W has been doing a lot of holiday posts (gift wrap) and will do a plastic bag post as Mike requested. Lydia said the Provincetown Chapter of the Lions club collects glasses and sunglasses. AIM has a little collection box of prescription glasses.

e. **Chamber of Commerce newsletter/email blast:** No update

4) WASTE REDUCTION

a. **Food Rescue:** On January 10, 2023 at 9:30 AM, Andrea Marczely (Food Access Coordinator at Cape Cod Cooperative Extension) is hosting a Food Rescue presentation for larger institutions. Nauset schools and Wellfleet Elementary School representatives are planning to attend. Andrea is trying to get an Assisted Living facility and a large Resort to participate and share how they deal with food waste. Food Pantries, animal feed, and composting are preferred over trash disposal, and this forum will hopefully shed light on successful diversion strategies.

b. **Water Refill Stations:** Lydia and Chrisitne S sent an email to Wellfleet Town Administrator Rich Waldo and DPW director Jay Norton about the conundrum regarding the funded refill stations that are still awaiting installation because the town's free cash has been unavailable. Orleans, Eastham, and Provincetown each have 4 to 10 outdoor water refill stations (some are seasonal).

c. **Swap Shop:** No update.

d. **Carry In Carry Out signs:** We should get some more of these.

e. **Refill Cape Cod:** Christine S updated the map based on refill stations installed in Eastham and at the National Seashore. We should put this on our flyer for businesses along with the decals.

f. **Reduce Aquaculture Plastics:** No updates.

g. **Reusable Food Containers survey:** No updates. Maybe a broader survey from MassDEP might be more effective than our smaller in-town surveys have been. We are looking to find if people want a different kind of product, and whether they are recycling the plastic food containers. Chris W shared a photo of the Cape Wellness Collaborative using heavy pressed cardboard containers and wondered if those were preferable to the plastics, and suggested they might be a better alternative for some dryer foods like salads, and make for an easier transition away from the black plastics. We need to find if these are BPI certified. Nancy will get pricing and check on new products for food storage that are BPI certified. Jaya offered to get cost estimates on stainless steel 'tiffins' / containers.

ACCOUNTING REPORT: About \$898 in our account

VACANCIES 1 regular, 2 alternates

Meeting adjourned: 12:05 PM

Next meeting: FEBRUARY 7, 2022