

WELLFLEET RECYCLING COMMITTEE
Minutes for February 7, 2023 at 11:03 AM
Virtual Zoom Meeting, Recorded

Present: Christine Shreves, Olivia Kraus, Nancy Najmi, Lydia Vivante, Jaya Karlson (left at 12:13).
Lydia Vivante called the meeting to order at 11:05.

Others Present: Mark Howard and Erika Smith (Massachusetts Oyster Project), Kari Parcell (MassDEP/Barnstable County)

1. UPDATES & NEWS

a) Transfer Station/Recycling Center (TS/RC):

The Wellfleet Transfer Station (TS) and Recycling Committee (RC) will share an information table at the Nauset High School Adulting Workshop for students on March 16, 2023. The RC will provide the recyclesmart cards and other brochures.

b) New! Composting pilot at the Wellfleet Elementary School (WES): Claudia Cope-Crosen, school nurse (WES) has been working with Michael Cicale (TS) to set up composting at the school. Four sixty-four gallon bins will be used for composting food waste and will be collected by the TS when the town's compost is ready to be dropped off for Watt's Family Farm in Dennis.

c) Wellfleet Elementary School recycling & composting presentation (1/26): Nancy and Christine represented the RC and presented information about recycling and composting to *the Peace Pollinator's* - an after-school activity run by Claudia Cope-Crosen. The approximately 18 students (ages 6-11) shared information and asked questions about recycling, and sorted one of the school's recycling bins.

Kari said 10 of 15 Barnstable County towns have residential drop-off food waste composting available with Provincetown and Eastham talking about it, and Sandwich and Bourne not yet on board. There are few composting vendors available in Barnstable County. AJ Watts only deals with municipalities, and businesses have a hard time reaching them. Black Earth Compost and Recycleworks are both looking to expand their composting enterprises to Cape Cod.

d) Mass Oyster Project, Erika Smith, Mark Howard: The Mass Oyster Project (MOP) is launching its third season of shell recycling partnered with the Wellfleet TS. They also partnered with 17 area restaurants to collect shell waste. These shells go to a different section of the TS to dry for a year before being put back into the harbor for cultch. This year they are hoping to set up tables at local farmer's markets to get people aware of the project and to provide a place for people to bring their waste shells for recycling (if approved by the farmer's markets in Orleans and Wellfleet) and would appreciate help from the RC. Christine noted we have tents. Erika would like to attend the farmer's markets bi-weekly over the summer. The RC had a table at the farmers market last year, reserving the space by contacting the Wellfleet farmers market two weeks in advance.

Off-Cape seafood markets have shell drop offs as well. Lydia suggested Hatches and Macs at the pier might be possible drop offs. Christine asked Erika about the cleanliness of shells, as the general town shell pile includes other trash and debris. The MOP is using 5 gallon buckets for collection, so they can pull out trash as they dump the shells, although the restaurants are trained to keep trash out. This is a free service to restaurants.

2021 was the pilot year with only 5 or 6 restaurants participating. Orleans, Chatham, Eastham, and Ptown have some participating restaurants in addition to Wellfleet. The project is primarily volunteer driven, although grants would be helpful to defray costs. A bill has been proposed to allow for tax rebates (\$5/bucket for businesses who recycle shells).

The RC is putting out an informational flyer for the Chamber of Commerce. Christine suggested we put the MOP website on the flyer. The Wellfleet Chamber's 'After Hours' networking nights have speakers and Erika's group would be well-suited for this, and there might be an opportunity to get a donation from the Chamber. Maybe the RC should be the host of one of the network nights and invite composting companies to speak.

e) CapeCod.gov website: There will be a Pay As You Throw (PAYT) tune up meeting on March 14, 2023. Kari put some links on the chat.

2. OUTREACH

a) MassDEP on Diversity Equity Inclusion & Environmental Justice initiatives (1/11),

Kari Parcell: Two of nine activities are required in order to earn Recycling Dividend Points (RDP). For example, discounted TS pass for low income or veterans, bilingual brochures, discounted bags for low income/veterans. Wellfleet didn't apply for this point, so it might be an opportunity to gain more points. Wellfleet was the highest RDP earner for 2022, resulting in \$10,000 to the town. Wellfleet has \$34,643 in total RDPoints. Falmouth is using their RDPoints for a swap shop new building. Kari is not sure if shell recycling is part of the RDP program, but feels it should be. Wellfleet submitted its RDP surveys by the February 15, 2023 deadline. Towns need to spend down their RDPoints, as the state doesn't want to owe a backlog of money. Wellfleet wants a 40 yard roll off, toters and vehicle scales which Kari will track. RDP grants will open up in April and end in June. Kari is putting together a spreadsheet showing what municipalities are lacking so that those towns can get more RDPoints.

b) Carry In Carry Out signs update, Olivia: Six signs are up and looking good. Do we want more? Do we want to pay for them or use the free DPW signs? One sign had fallen but Olivia put it back up. These are attached to shellfish poles that are already in place. Christine would like to see them at town beaches. Olivia will ask Suzanne Grout Thomas or Jay Norton about other locations and other poles.

c) Food Rescue planning meeting (1/30), Andrea Marczely (new Flashfood app): Claudia Cope-Crosen brought up an app called Flashfood. A store texts an alert when there are 50% discounts on soon to

expire food. Lydia assumes the Food Rescue group will continue meeting as they provide useful information.

d) Plastic Beverage Bottle Ban bylaw outreach – bylaw effective 5/1/23: Lydia - food waste reduction - note that ½ ton of food waste is equivalent to (4) 64 gallon totes, or (8) standard 32 gallon trash cans. Christine put a link for the guides of dos and don'ts of recycling and composting. Where do we put new info? An RC subcommittee will work on putting this on our website. Olivia will update our website. We need to maintain continuity between outreach, media and the website and link the town of Wellfleet's website to the RC website.

e) Wellfleet Recycling Guide brochures: Lydia shared the draft. Suggestions included adding more color, making one for visitors. .

f) Buying Guide for Compostable Food Serviceware update, Christine & Nancy: The Center for Environmental Health (CEH) documents testing for PFAS and BPA chemicals in food storage, including compostable food storage. GreenScreen Certified Standard for Food Service Ware is part of the larger GreenScreen certification process. December 2021 database for food serviceware products tested for fluorinated additives (added to make products grease and water resistant) - Christine looked at the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) certification, which doesn't list products with PFAS.

g) The Provincetown Independent community classified 50-word item: Lydia sent some ideas for our classified announcement with copied info from the Wellfleet TS website. In February we will put info about textile recycling, March Universal Waste batteries/mercury disposal, and April Latex paint disposal.

h) Chamber of Commerce newsletter button and posts: The Wellfleet Chamber of Commerce will put a newsletter button on their website which would take people to wellfleetrecycles.org. Link to Chamber Newsletter? How would that link to RC?

3. WASTE REDUCTION

a) Tiffins & Dabbawalas, Reusable Food Containers: Jaya suggested tiffins as a sustainable reusable take out alternative. These are stainless steel food containers with covers that clasp tightly to prevent leakage. Some designs are stacked to hold 2 to 4 separate items. They are sold in Indian stores and online. Lydia suggested 246 Kitchen might consider these for re-usable take out containers as they are dishwasher-safe.

b) Library of Things/Community Cutlery+: Christine brought assembled crates to the library for organizing dish sets and other items. Naomi will add about six items to the Library of Things.

d) Refill Stations / Refill Cape Cod: Christine sent emails to get the water refill stations installed at the marina and town hall. Jay Norton (DPW) has \$24k for water stations in FY 24. If the harbormaster doesn't want to install the water station, then he needs to let us know ASAP.

e) **Reduce Aquaculture Plastics:** Lydia wrote to shellfish constable for an update on aquaculture plastic waste and alternatives.

CALENDAR NOTES

FEB 24	Boomerang Bags sewing bee, 2-5 Wellfleet Public Library
MAR 16	Transfer Station/Recycling Center Table at Nauset High School
APR 22	Earth Day (Sat)
APR 23	Amnesty Day, 8AM to 2PM
_____	Eastham & Wellfleet Recycling Comt. Visits to TS/RCs, date pending

REPORTS

Minutes: Christine moved to approve the Nov, 2022. Dec, 2022 and Jan, 2023 minutes; Olivia seconded, all in favor. 4-0.

Accounting: Christine purchased more crates but found they were very heavy when filled with plates. She will order some smaller crates.

Correspondence:

- Mashpee nips ban began in July
- Sustainable Practices: Trying to get all towns to put something on all bylaws to ban plastic take out - so it would all have to be refillable or compostable
- Black Earth Compost is picking up from Eddy School in Brewster; Black Earth Compost takes anything on the BPI compostable list.
- Falmouth refill stations: Christine got an email that Falmouth wants to put their 12 water refill locations on the Google map. They want to meet to talk about how to promote water refill. We should invite them to the next RC meeting. Discovery maps will donate space for ad space for the water refill.

Vacancies: 1 regular, 2 alternates - needs to be updated on the town website.

Meeting adjourned: 12:20

Next meeting: MARCH 7, 2022