

**WELLFLEET RECYCLING COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes for September 5, 2023**  
**Virtual Zoom Meeting, Recorded**

**Present:** Christine Shreves, Lydia Vivante, Nancy Najmi, Chris Wisniewski, Jaya Karlson, Olivia Krauss, Carol Magenau

**Others Present:** Nancy Gralla (potential RC member), Mike Cicale (Wellfleet Transfer Station TS), Julie Seabury (Wellfleet Spirits Shoppe), Alan Kokus (Seaside Liquors), Roland Blair (Swap Shop coordinator).

Lydia Vivante called the meeting to order at 11:01.

**Announcements:**

- The Transfer Station is now closed on Wednesdays and Thursdays through Memorial Day

**Swap Shop update from Roland Blair:**

- Roland met with DPW director Jay Norton and Peter Norns.
- They have the pricing for the new Swap Shop building that is needed as a budgetary number but they still need two additional prices which Peter is pursuing.
- The building is a metal kit, similar to the library book donation building at the TS.
- The Swap Shop will be located to the right of the library building.
- Once they get the three prices, they will order the building and then assemble it.
- Roland is getting feedback from Swap Shop volunteers.
- They have gotten a price for a heat pump to provide heat and AC and will seek grants to pay for it.
- Building will have electricity, but is not likely to have plumbing.
- There will be eight windows, a regular door, and a garage door.
- They will re-use portions of the current Swap Shop - old wood for shelving, re-use the functioning door, etc.
- Roland thinks they can create one lockable section for large Library of Things (LoT) items.
- Roland thinks the new Swap Shop will be up by the Spring of the current fiscal year.
- Christine S let Roland know about a letter in the RC file at Town Hall that praised the Swap Shop.
- Christine is in charge of the library book shed and hopes that electricity will be extended there when the Swap Shop is assembled.

**Transfer Station update by Mike Cicale:**

- Cape Cod recycled 22 tons of shrinkwrap from boats this year, 3 tons from Wellfleet.
- Ben Morris will be back to help hauling on September 15.
- The recycling trailer will arrive in ten weeks - this will reduce the number of haul trips.
- The bulky rigid plastic bin will replace the old dumpsters.
- One of the old dumpsters will be used to collect tin cans for recycling.
- Mike is talking to Cape Cod Beer about the four-pack beer lids; Devil's Purse doesn't want them.
- Massachusetts Recycling Conference will be held at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston on September 27, 5 to 8 PM. The DEP commissioner will speak.
- WES composting was stopped for summer vacation and will resume with the new school year. It worked well last year.
- Black Earth Composting is picking up compost at \$5 per bucket in Eastham. Christine S asked if Black Earth will do residential and business compost pick-ups in Wellfleet if the TS gets a contract with them.
- Mike is talking with AJ and Chad at Watts family farm to see if they would mind if Wellfleet switches to Black Earth composting in concert with Eastham.
- Mike has applied for a Wellfleet Cultural Council grant to get the recycling containers painted.
- Olivia saw many people put compostable bags into the compost bin at the TS and recommends an additional sign that explicitly states "No compostable bags".
- Water monsters are up for grabs. They are no longer used for Oyster Fest, see if any other towns want them.

**Climate and Energy Committee update by Carol Magenau:**

- They are working on a climate action plan for Wellfleet.

**Nips Ban status and outreach:**

- Town meeting will vote on the nips ban on September 18 at WES, starting at 6 PM.
- All of the warrants for town meeting (including the nips ban) will be discussed at the Wellfleet Community Forum hybrid meeting at the Adult Community Center (ACC) at 7 PM on September 12, 2023.
- Alan Kokus of Seaside Liquors thanked the RC for its efforts. He supports less plastic and less litter, and supported the plastic water bottle ban because there were alternatives. Because there are no alternatives to the 50 ml spirits (nips), and because the four neighboring towns on the Outer Cape will continue to sell them, Alan feels that the Wellfleet liquor stores will be put at a fiscal disadvantage when they lose their nips and related sales. Alan would like to wait and see what the state does, and he doesn't

support Wellfleet banning nips beforehand. Liquor salesmen have told Alan that the liquor stores in Mashpee and Falmouth (where there are nips bans) have lost some sales to neighboring Cotuit (where there is no nip ban). Alan proposed that the liquor stores do their own collection of deposits for nips, then return the deposits when customers return the nips bottles, and give the remainder of the unreturned deposit money to the town. Alan has contacted wholesalers who will come to communities and clean up and he wants to work with the RC, and asked what we think.

- Lydia wondered if it would be legal to institute an informal nips deposit, and if the town would be able to accept such donations. What means of oversight would there be to ensure the liquor stores follow through with this informal nips deposit scheme? Community groups already do clean up the roads in town.
- While cleaning up along Cove Rd. and Rt 6, Jaya noted that 90% of the trash is nips, and she doesn't feel that people would return those bottles to redeem their deposit.
- Olivia noted that the Open Container Law provides an incentive for people to throw their nips out the window when driving.
- Christine S explained that Provincetown and Eastham are already talking about a nips ban. If Wellfleet is in the forefront, then the neighboring towns will follow. Nips are both a litter and a public safety issue. Chelsea measured 911 calls due to liquor use before and after their nips ban and noted a reduced number of liquor emergency calls after the ban. We will try to get information about the financial repercussions for liquor stores in the towns where nips bans have passed.
- Wellfleet Police said the number of DUI's is low right now due to Uber and the Funk Bus.
- Julie Seabury of the Wellfleet Spirits Shoppe called into the meeting to add that she agrees with Alan. She wishes that the RC had contacted and worked with the three liquor stores in Wellfleet before writing the nips ban warrant. She feels the nips ban will hurt the three Wellfleet liquor store businesses. She proposes that we work to educate nips consumers and take proactive steps until the state makes overall rules for nip bottles.
- Lydia shared her screen with the information sheet about Article 12: mini nips bottle ban. This will be distributed at the Community Forum and Town Meeting.

**Calendar Update:**

- The Wellfleet Farmer's Market runs through October. The RC will host a table with the nips ban information sheet on the Wednesdays before September 18.
- September 27 Special Town Election
- September 27: Massachusetts Recycle Conference Hynes Convention Center
- October 7, 9-12: Household Hazardous Waste collection for the Outer Cape in Provincetown

- October 8, 9AM: Shuck and Run Race. Set up for the water tables is 8 AM. Olivia volunteered to help, and we need three more as the Recreation Department has fewer staff members and volunteers in the Fall.
- October 9, 10 AM: Coast Sweep beach clean up along Cape Cod Bay from Duck Harbor to the Gut.

**Fix-It Clinic** is held on Winter Wednesdays at the Provincetown Library. Naomi Robbins is interested in doing this in Wellfleet.

**Community Classified Provincetown Independent:** Composting information.

**Social Media:** Chris W has posted the new TS winter hours. She will review Article 12 to ensure her posts about the nips ban use the correct language. She will post information prior to the Community Forum and Town Meeting.

**Library of Things (LoT):** Christine S was super helpful getting tents and tables for Porchfest and did an amazing job preparing items to be checked out with the CLAMS card. Chris W wonders if the LoT might keep some simple tools.

**Reusable Food Containers:** Jaya is seeing good containers at her B&B, but none of the businesses she contacted have gotten back to her. Lydia got a paper soup container which was very small and compostable.

**Aquaculture Plastics:** Lydia spoke with Nancy Civetta about plastic webbing for culching and wanted to know if burlap could be used instead.

**RC Members:** Hopefully Nancy Gralla will join the Recycling Committee and fill one of the two available alternate positions.

**Meeting adjourned at 12:03 PM.**