

**WELLFLEET RECYCLING COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes for August 1, 2023**  
**Virtual Zoom Meeting, Recorded**

**Present:** Lydia Vivante, Christine Shreves, Olivia Kraus, Chris Wisniewski, Carol Magenau

**Others Present:** Mike Cicale (Wellfleet Transfer Station), Julie Seabury from Wellfleet Spirits Shoppe (11:45)

Christine Shreves called the meeting to order at 11:09.

**Transfer Station/Recycling Center (TS):** Mike Cicale provided his update from the new truck.

- The new truck allows Mike to find the best price for recycling and deliver it. Funding for the new truck was approved in 2020 and cost \$213,000 - it took three years for it to be built. Other towns have been getting quotes for over \$300,000, and even \$410,000 for a recycling truck, so the purchase was well timed. An additional trailer will be delivered soon, which will make recycling transportation much more efficient. Mike has been the primary driver for the truck and proudly drove it in the July 4th parade.
- Center for Coastal Studies asked Mike to collect marine debris lines & nets for them to upcycle into key chains (new program).
- Boat wrap: >3.5 tons collected this year, Mike recruited another boat yard. 2 tons were collected in 2022. Wrap higher quality this year - TS monitored and worked with people to remove zippers, etc. TS delivered shrink wrap to Republic Services in Brockton, who created a program to recycle for the Barnstable County collection program. The plastic is supposedly used for plastic coffee lids, but they still have the plastic wrap from last year.
- Household Hazardous Waste day in Truro this Saturday 8/5. PTown is 10/7.
- Black Earth Compost: picking up food waste from Eastham TS at \$20 per tote vs \$25 for Watts. Bringing Wellfleet food waste to Eastham would save time and money, but Wellfleet is part of a regional program and changing vendors would affect other towns.
- WES Compost: Mike picks up 1 tote per month when he brings TS totes to Dennis.
- Dave of Dave's Green's (Truro) expressed disappointment that the town isn't doing its own onsite composting for use by local gardeners and farmers. Christine asked whether such an endeavor would require different permitting and Mike said it would take some time to get the infrastructure and permitting in place.

### **Energy & Climate Change Committee update - Carol:**

- Energy & Climate Action Committee working on a draft Climate Change plan, getting support from Cape Cod Commission (CCC), but after Assistant Town Administrator Rebecca Roughly left, there has been insufficient staff to interface with CCC.
- Carol and current committee chair Suzanne Ryan are taking an 8-week course with the Pachamama Alliance about working towards a sustainable world and how to be a better climate activist
- Carol reported that the EV show was a success, with 100 attendees taking test rides in EV vehicles.

### **Other Business:**

- Carol suggested a tool library for the Library of Things. We agreed that would be a great addition, but tools involve maintenance and safety processes and procedures. Something to work towards.
- Carol said she loved the Fix-It clinics we held at the Library pre-pandemic. We suggested she contact Naomi or Racine about whether Library staff has the bandwidth to coordinate them in the fall. Lydia suggested we offer Fix-It clinics or Boomerang Bag sewing bees through the Winter Wednesday program, [winterwednesdays.org](http://winterwednesdays.org). Since the library is very busy in the summer, we should make this a future agenda item.
- Road Race on July 9th went smoothly. The Bookstore Restaurant is good with the Road Race using their water. Lydia and Christine have created a list of items that will make for smoother water usage: a sprayer attachment for the hoses, a dog bowl (for runners with dogs). The RC function is strictly to help with water and recycling. At the end of the race the fusti water dispenser was utilized when the canned water had run out. Next year is the 50th year of the race so it will be a bigger event, with the Wellfleet Historical Society and Museum getting involved.
- Farmers Market table: Lydia reported that Erica from Mass Oyster Project now works as an Asst. Shellfish Constable, and regularly attends the Orleans Farmers Market but could still do a table at the Wellfleet Farmers Market, depending on the dates. We discussed the need for vertical easy-to-read displays, as we need to promote the proposed NIPs ban. Perhaps we should have a table in late August, or early September.
- October Shuck n' Run around OysterFest weekend in October 2023.
- Plastic Water Ban Bylaw outreach: Chris W posted about it, Chamber of Commerce is ready for Green tips so we might want to provide information about a nips ban. Olivia

noted that the Masonic Lodge Wednesday Dinners are now using canned water instead of plastic bottles.

#### **NIPs Ban:**

- Special Town Meeting SEPT 18th. The RC's NIPs ban was placed on the warrant by the Selectboard and they recommended it 5-0.
- Selectboard member Kathleen Bacon requested we do outreach with local businesses. Lydia suggested we wait to do outreach until after the warrant is closed on August 15. Lydia discussed the warrant article with Julie Seabury of Wellfleet Spirit Shoppe. Her concern was lost revenue as she does sell a lot of them. She also makes some gift bags with nips that are attractive. Julie told Lydia about an idea circulating that the liquor stores put a recycling receptacle for the nips, and even consider a bottle deposit. Christine commented about the unlikeliness of nips-users saving and returning their bottles. Lydia observed the bowl of nips for \$1 right on the counter which are mostly plastic. Only the nicer nips are in glass, behind her display case. Lydia's concern is that people go to a larger size and drink more liquor. Christine looked for statistics from Chelsea and Newton on their nips bans, but didn't have that info at hand. Chris W reminded us that the purpose of the nips ban is environmental. Julie planned to join today's meeting, but might be able to attend our next meeting.
- We discussed outreach options: Christine emailed Meg Morris from Brewster Recycling Commission about their outreach efforts, and Meg shared data from their town road cleanups - 3300 bottles from 2020/2021 and 2700 bottles from 2022. Shall we post info on the Wellfleet forum email or the Chamber of Commerce newsletter? Chris W agreed to work on an instagram post (visual and text) that we could tailor to other outreach efforts. Goal is to discuss the ban individually with all liquor stores in town. Christine will reach out to friends on Ocean View Drive who collected NIPs bottles last year and may have useful data to share; they also may be willing to visit businesses. Christine will talk to Ginie Page, who leads the Wellfleet Conservation Trust Rte 6 cleanups, to see if she has any NIPs bottle data to share. The general sense is that the community of Wellfleet supports the nips ban. Julie Seabury had technical issues so we couldn't hear her. Lydia provided her phone number so Julie could call in to the meeting. Julie feels a statewide nips ban will be more effective. She is concerned about Wellfleet banning nips, while neighboring towns still sell them so that the Wellfleet stores lose business. Christine S explained how these types of bans begin as townwide initiatives before the state takes action. Wellfleet is trying to be a leader. Julie's other question is about the time frame, and Christine responded that

the nips ban would take effect in the fall of 2024. We will research and share information about how liquor stores in other towns with nips bans have fared.

**Library of Things:** There were lots of loans in May & June, and upcoming loans with the Wellfleet Dems bake sale and a large late September wedding. Christine S and Lydia have done a lot of work creating the spreadsheet that details what items are borrowable through CLAMS, and which items are borrowable through the RC. We will not work with wedding planners in the future as it was too much work for the RC volunteers. Chris mentioned that Prez Hall “turning the tables” dinners for service workers uses LoT tableware and it was very lovely.

**Refill Stations:** Christine reported that the Marina refill station installation outside the shower/restroom building along the walkway has started. They are waiting on a competitive bid process to get plumber in.

**Classified Ad:** Lydia will do Independent ad and Chamber green tips. The Household Hazardous Waste Days will go into the Independent ad, then nips ban info after August 15.

**Social Media:** Chris said our instagram account has almost 750 followers , and she has done 150 posts. She is looking for ideas. Every Monday when she posts she tries to find new ways to present info and she welcomes all suggestions. She will post about the nips ban starting August 15. Olivia suggested a post about marine debris and another post about what’s available or needed at the Swap Shop. Christine S suggested reminders about what is recyclable.

**Aquaculture Plastics:** Lydia spoke with Erica Smith from Mass Oyster Project about the orange plastic net bags to build up a reef because all materials that go into the water must be biodegradable.

**Beach Clean-up:** Lydia emailed Denny O’Connell to see if he is coordinating the Coastsweep beach clean-up in Wellfleet. Christine S said we might need to coordinate this on our own.

**Accounting:** We have \$1500 per year with the

**Next meeting:** September 5, 2023

Meeting was adjourned at 12:03.