

WELLFLEET RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Minutes for April 7, 2020 at 11:00 am

Virtual Meeting

Members Present: Lonni Briggs, Jaya Carlson, Christine Shreves, Lydia Vivante

Members Absent: Bethia Brehmer, Jane Sharp, Chris Wisniewski

Others Present: Mike Cicale, Transfer Station

Meeting called to order at 11:14 am by Lydia Vivante

1. Mike briefed us on Transfer Station recycling: first attempt at opening up single stream recycling using the glass collection trailers didn't work. Trailers weren't waterproof, filled up too quickly, and there were parking issues. The dual stream compactors can't be run while maintaining social distancing. Eastham has big hoppers to handle larger capacity, so staff does not need to run the compactors as often. Mike is in contact with other towns and exchanging ideas.
DPW is working on another solution for recycling, and Mike hopes to make leaf mulch available safely.
Marine debris collection is currently available at the harbor.
Horse manure is still accepted for health reasons, but call the Transfer Station first.
There are other places to bring brush and demolition waste, contact Transfer Station for specifics.
2. Discussed temporary state ban on reusable grocery bags, and suspended requirement for stores to redeem bottle deposits. Automated redemption centers still operating. Lydia suggested we work to promote reusables when this health crisis is over.
3. Discussed best practice of holding onto recycling for now. Mike suggested taking photos of saved recycling to show what was kept out of the trash. Other suggestions were to make your own yogurt, use yogurt cups to grow seedlings, shop at local food sources to reduce packaging.
4. Lydia mentioned lack of trash cans in town. She has seen disposable gloves dropped on the ground, which end up in the waterways. Wellfleet Spirits did put a box outside the store for gloves, which is much appreciated. Mike explained that DPW does not have equipment to dump trash cans, and for safety reasons doesn't want staff to manually empty trash.
5. Lydia suggested adding air dryers to town restrooms, which would be germ-free and save paper.
6. Lydia provided Sustainable Cape link to local food sources: <https://www.sustainablecape.org/connecting-with-your-local-grower-during-covid-19-pandemic> .
7. We discussed PBS Frontline documentary 'Plastic Wars', which is available to stream online: <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/plastic-wars/> .
8. 50th anniversary of first Earth Day is April 22nd. The Wellfleet Conservation Trust beach clean-up has been postponed until the fall, but individuals can always do their own cleanup or do something else for the environment.
9. Refill stations: no word yet on when Harbormaster will install the refill station delivered last May. Per DPW only viable Town Hall location is base of fire escape stairs, and installation cost estimate is \$3000. We need to come up with an additional \$2000 for installation. We will discuss with Water Commissioners at their next scheduled meeting.
10. Boomerang Bags founder Erica Gorn is sewing face masks for a local nursing home. She is working with cape mask makers group who distributes fabric and handles delivery of finished masks.
11. Next meeting May 5th.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 pm, minutes prepared by Christine Shreves.