

## WELLFLEET RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Minutes for October 6, 2020 at 11:00 am

Virtual Zoom Meeting, Recorded

Members present: Bethia Bremer, Jaya Carlson, Christine Shreves, Lydia Vivante, Jane Sharp

Members absent: Chris Wisniewski

Others Present: Amy Wolff (Truro Recycling Com.), Carol Magenau (Energy/Climate Action Com.), Kari Parcell (MassDEP)

Meeting called to order at 11:00 am by co-chair Lydia Vivante

1. Commercial water bottle ban passed at town meeting, big success.
  - Discussed outreach to business community in mid-winter about alternate products such as Open Water cans. Suggestions included researching MA-based Polar Springs, offering samples, researching bulk-pricing. Jaya offered to do research when the time comes.
  - Sustainable Practices reports that 6 towns have passed the ban so far: Brewster, Wellfleet, Falmouth, P-Town, Eastham, Harwich. Seven towns voting on it this fall, 2 in Spring.
2. Town Water Supply contamination: some customers did not receive notification, town working to resolve communications issue. Someone reported that the problem was a break in a pipe.
3. Transfer station update from Mike provided via email: PAYT bags to continue until Board of Health Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. When safe to do so, glass separation would start even if single-stream recycles continues. Things working well with recycling, no problem getting rid of it. Two seasonal employees gone for the year, 3 staff members left.
4. Information from Kari Parcell:
  - Orleans wants to use PGA (pulverized glass aggregate) in their sewage project, but Dennis does not have enough stockpiled. Group discussed restarting glass separation as highly desirable in terms of reducing weight/cost of single-stream recycling and keeping the glass for local use (transportation produces 50% of greenhouse gas emissions on the Cape per Lydia).
  - Dennis is now transporting MSW to Covanta by rail, they switched from ABC to Covanta.
  - We asked why pizza boxes are now okay for paper recycling, Kari said that a little grease on cardboard has never been a problem, but it is now being promoted by MassDEP as okay.
  - Fiber (newspaper & cardboard) are currently profitable but market is changeable.
5. Discussed attending Health Dept Oct 14<sup>th</sup> 6 pm meeting to hear about plans for PAYT, single-stream recycling, swap shop re-opening, water refill stations. Note: per Kari all cape swap shops are currently closed.
6. Black Earth Compost - commercial/residential service coming to the Cape, 40 customers/town to start service. Pre-register at [blackearthcompost.com](http://blackearthcompost.com). Outreach to institutions such as nursing homes, schools, hospitals? Christine mentioned that CARE for the Cape & Islands November virtual summit will feature Black Earth, and they are looking for a local business that composts, and a compostable serviceware vendor to join the panel. Date is November 17<sup>th</sup> 11 am.
7. Zero Waste policies/municipal procurement - Does town take advantage of state contracts for EPP (environmentally preferred products)? Are municipal compost haulers included?
  - Christine made a short presentation about the compostable serviceware guide to September 22<sup>nd</sup> to the

Cape Cod procurement officials organization, and Julia Wolfe (MA Operational Services Division, EPP Director) was the main presenter. Her presentation is very informative.

Julia's presentation: **Meeting Agendas and Minutes** and click on September 22nd OSD EPP link.

8. Water bottle refill station installations on hold until town lifts closure of public water fountains/refillers.
9. Producer Responsibility: Lydia sent a letter to Sunset Tomatoes asking why they stopped using a paper container for Wild Wonders tomatoes (they now use a plastic one).
10. Fall Tax Insert - the printing company can only use card stock, and cost for color insert was \$600, which is almost double the approved expenditure of \$350. So no tax insert. Chris did a great job on the tax insert and we discussed other ways to get it out there. Suggestions were to post on our website, social media, send it to Chamber of Commerce for their newsletter for a start.
11. Chamber of Commerce membership: voted 5-0 to join again this year at \$125 non-profit rate. Cost for email blasts is \$35.
12. Social media posts: Chris couldn't make the meeting but reported via email that she posted about pizza boxes being recyclable and hazardous waste day in P-Town. Suggestion made to post tax insert graphic.
13. Community Cutlery: loaned out supplies for zero waste wedding in Truro Oct 11<sup>th</sup>.
14. Energy & Climate Action Committee liaison: Committee received \$8000 grant for energy efficiency improvements in town buildings including Town Hall, Elementary School, Library, and the COA. Seabin not viable for the harbor since it requires at least 4 ft of water at all times. No progress on including net zero emissions measures for new Nauset High School building.
15. Committee vacancies: positions for one regular member and two alternates are open. Lydia will email volunteer application to provide to anyone who may be interested.
16. September 2<sup>nd</sup> minutes approved 5-0. Lydia to check if accounting report is available.

Next meeting November 10, 11 am (rescheduled for week after Election Day)

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm

Minutes prepared by Christine Shreves