

## WELLFLEET RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Minutes for December 1, 2020 at 11:00 am

Virtual Zoom Meeting, Recorded

Members present: Jaya Carlson, Jane Sharp, Christine Shreves, Lydia Vivante, Chris Wisniewski

Members absent: Bethia Brehmer

Others Present: Michael Cicale, (Transfer Station Foreman), Amy Wolff (Truro Recycling Com.), Carol Magenau (Energy/Climate Action Com.), Kari Parcell (MassDEP), Nancy Najmi (potential new member)

Meeting called to at 11:00 am by co-chair Christine Shreves

1. Transfer Station: Mike reported that Dual Stream recycling will be restarted on January 15<sup>th</sup>. PAYT bag suspension will be revisited in March by the Board of Health. Discover Books collection is still available at the Transfer Station (per question from Christine). Mike will add book donation information to the Transfer Station recycling website.
2. Fall 2020 WasteWise Forum Nov 10<sup>th</sup>: Lydia, Christine, & Jaya attended. John Fischer from MassDEP talked about the 2030 Solid Waste Master Plan and waste ban regulations; mattresses & textiles will be banned effective October 2021, and food waste ban for 1 ton or more per week will be reduced to ½ a ton. MassDEP focusing on food waste estimator tool for food establishments to use, and offers technical assistance to businesses & institutions at no cost. RecyclingWorks has a find-a-recycler tool; they are promoting reusable take-out containers like those Grainmaker restaurant uses.
3. CARE for Cape & Islands Compost Summit Nov 17<sup>th</sup>: Black Earth Compost offering commercial & residential food waste collection on the Cape. Minimum of 40 accounts per town, or larger institutional customer. You can register anytime so they know who is interested by town. Cost for residential \$99 for 6 months or \$3.80/week, curbside; prices drop as volume increases. Discussed ways to promote such as a mailer, Chamber eblast/newsletter notice, recruiting friends & neighbors, or approaching institutions. Lydia mentioned the COA kitchen, which currently preps meals for 49 residents.
4. Commercial Water Bottle Ban outreach: Christine reported ban passed in 8 towns [correction, 7 towns]. Will discuss more early next year, and explore coordinating with other towns.
5. Mask litter: Discussed outreach/signage options such as putting up posters, town signs about wearing masks (like PTown) and mentioning litter prevention. Mike reframed issue as single-use product litter generally. Chris posted mask litter on Instagram a while. Members agreed on idea of addressing litter as single-use products issue.
6. Zero Waste Policies: Lydia brought up the town's zero waste policy, questioning if it was formally approved or put into practice. The policy advocates double-sided printing by default, compost bins in kitchens, and much more. Conservation Law Center is promoting zero waste policies rather than recycling. Lydia verified Qwik Pack & Ship accepts donated shipping peanuts. They also accept air pillows.
7. Holiday Recycling Guide: Lydia updated last year's poster and sent it to the Chamber and to Courtney to send to town email list. Chris is posting it to Instagram in a series (poster too big).
8. Water bottle refill stations: no progress, Health Dept. ban on public water fountains/bottle fillers. Christine noted that MA COVID restrictions allow bottle fillers. In any case, Marina & Town hall installations on hold.
9. Producer responsibility: Lydia has contacted some companies about alternatives to their product's plastic packaging. Mike provided information about Extended Product Responsibility, which requires producers to

fund disposal of their products. Full EPR means manufacturers take back end of life products; partial EPR means they fund a 3<sup>rd</sup> party program to dispose of the products. EPR bills have been passed in other NE states. Kari said that MassDEP is focusing on hard to recycle products, like mattresses and paint.

10. Alternatives to plastic aquaculture equipment: Tom Siggia from the Shellfish Advisory Board (SAB) notified Lydia that the SAB Intern's report will be presented at the SAB meeting on 12/9/20 at 6:30 pm.
11. Social Media: Chris announced that our Instagram account has 220 followers! Chris is posting every other week and she noted that posts are usually specific to Wellfleet. She has a series of posts planned. Chris asked Mike & Kari whether plastic milk bottles or milk cartons are more environmentally friendly. Discussion ensued with Kari offering to research lifecycle impacts, and Mike offered that plastic milk bottles are very desirable by MRFs, and in this area cartons are not recyclable. Kari described her plastic-free month challenge, which she is making a video about it. She is repurposing glass yogurt containers into votive candles for Xmas gifts! Lydia mentioned that Gelato Joy in Wellfleet and Whole Foods sell milk in glass bottles.
12. Community Cutlery: We have new inventory from the zero waste wedding in October (votive candles, bud vases, plates, etc). All of the new items and those that from Christine's basement are now in the Library storeroom, thanks to Naomi's help.
13. Energy & Climate Action liaison: Carol reported that Nauset High School is considering zero emissions in their remodeling plans. The committee is working on the town's Local Comprehensive Plan section on energy and climate change. Lydia asked about adding zero waste goals to the plan; Carol suggested she send an email with possible content before the next Energy Com. meeting. Energy Com. has applied for a grant to buy a generator for the COA to aid residents during power outages, but it can not be used as a shelter. Lydia asked if Energy Com. had considered a solar powered generator; Carol will look into it. The Landfill solar array court case is still pending, but a work around plan is in progress.
14. Committee vacancies: Nancy Najmi attended this meeting to see if she was interested in joining the committee. Lydia asked if Chris had posted about the vacancies; she had done so a while back.
15. Accounting report: no report available due to departure of town accountant in September.
16. October minutes were sent out for review prior to the meeting. Jane made a motion to approve them, Christine seconded, passed 5-0.

Next meeting January 5, 11 am

Meeting adjourned at 12:09 pm

Minutes prepared by Christine Shreves