

**WELLFLEET RECYCLING COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes for April 5, 2022 at 11:00 PM**  
**Virtual Zoom Meeting, Recorded**

**Members present:** Nancy Najmi, Christine Shreves, Lydia Vivante, Chris Wisniewski, Jane Sharp, Jaya Karlson, Olivia Kraus.

**Others Present:** Mike Cicale (Wellfleet Transfer Station), Carol Magenau(Wellfleet Energy & Climate Action Committee), Kari Parcell (MassDEP/Barnstable County, Gabrielle Griffis (Brewster Ladies Library - Boomerang Bags Project)

Christine Shreves called the meeting to order at 11:03 AM.

**UPDATES**

**a. Transfer Station / Recycling Center:**

- Amnesty Day: April 23, 2022 from 8 am to 2 pm: Each homeowner can bring one car/van/truck load of anything- C+D, furniture, etc. Mike has sent the flyer and the map of the layout for dumping stations to Chris W. Only one trip per car is free. The Transfer Station (TS) will close at 2 PM on Amnesty Day to clean up. Mike will put out the LED sign to advertise this. It is announced on the town website and TS website. Christine asked Mike to also send the flyer to wellfleetrecycles email so it can get to Olivia too.

- Household Hazardous Waste Days: June 4, 9-12 Wellfleet, August 6 Truro, October 1 PTown  
Flyers have been distributed around town and in Swap Shop.

Black Earth is looking to expand, but they are not yet ready to come to the Outer Cape. Watts Family Farm currently takes our food waste and doesn't sell their compost anymore. Recently our compost bin was contaminated by plastic bread bags. We are limited by the rules from Watts for the food waste compost. Olivia suggests adding "No compostable bags" to the sign. Chris W and Olivia did a social media post about what cannot go into the food waste compost. Mike learned that Renew liner is made from #1 plastic, which was originally thought to be recyclable, but now they have learned they are not. Mike would like to see if we can get some of the Watts compost back when it is ready so that it will be available to residents and will show residents the benefits of compost. TS compost is from the leaf and brush pile. It is drier than other compost and runs out. Mike is adding wood chips to the compost which requires it all be turned. Two great quotes from a Provincetown Independent article featuring Mike this week: "The Recycling information can't fit into a newspaper article" and "It's a wonderful thing when we don't have to take anything over the bridge".

Jane asked Mike if the TS can sell the required purple bags, but Mike feels that it would cause a traffic back-up. Jane wondered about vending machines but Jaya pointed out the negative environmental impact of electric vending machines. Carol asked about the availability (or lack of) of the mini purple bags, and Mike said it had been a supply issue but is now resolved. Lydia suggested we put access to purple bags on the agenda, and Christine S suggested we ask local stores about stocking the bags.

**b. Energy & Climate Action Committee liaison:** Carol Magenau reported that there is money left for matching grants so they do not need to do a warrant article for such funding from the town. Suzanne Ryan sent a survey to chairpeople of like-minded town committees, but Carol has not heard of any results.

**c. Annual Calendar notes:** Earth Day April 22 - Saturday April 23, 2022 is the annual Town of Wellfleet Beach Cleanup sponsored by the Shellfish Advisory Board, Friends of Herring River, Wellfleet Recycling Committee and many other groups. Volunteers will meet at Mayo Beach at 9 AM. The Center for Coastal Studies has two cleanups in Provincetown planned. Perhaps we can present the plastic bottle bylaw amendment at the pre-Town Meeting in May, and report post info on the bottle bill updates on social media. Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for June 11 at 10 AM where the warrants will be voted on. At our next meeting we'll discuss water stations for Town Meeting. Lydia will talk to Wellfleet Marketplace about donating water again.

**d. MassDEP / Barnstable County:** Mass Recycle Virtual conference was last week. This was the most informational virtual conference Kari has been to. Kari would like to see a push for more smaller scale efforts like mattress recycling. Textile recycling and restaurant food waste initiatives are in the works. Mike Cicale goes to all of these meetings. Kari says Mike and Wellfleet have been a huge value to MassDEP. Feasibility study of Nov 2021 to the County Commissioners focused on recycling. The boat shrink wrap dumpster at WTS accepts P town and Truro shrink wrap. Shrinkwrap will be staying in North America and remade into garbage bags. Mike said Wellfleet Marine and Bay SailsMarine participated. Only shrink wrap is accepted - no vents or zippers or doors, etc. The program lasts from now until June 30, 2022. It's not yet totally cost effective, but hopefully it will grow. The latex paint program is similar. Kari noted that while these programs are free to residents, they do have costs, and down the road people may need to pay for these, and she emphasizes this so that these programs are not taken for granted. Lydia wants to know if shrinkwrap is reusable. Kari says you can use it on the same boat for up to 3 seasons, or you can cut it down and use it on a smaller boat. Mike said some people took shrinkwrap out to cover their firewood. Mike used to drive to Rhode Island to recycle mattresses, but now he just has to bring them to Eastham. Mattresses are dismantled and the components are sold. Five dumpsters-worth now fit into one dumpster that comes up from Rhode Island to pick them up.

**e. Public Works Refill Stations progress:** No update.

**f. Swap Shop, new building:** No update.

**g. Library of Things:** Christine S, Olivia and Chris W took photos of items for Naomi to use for catalog entries. Chris W has more donations for the library of things and will photograph them. Next they will photograph items stored at the TS. Christine S was trying to order the pop up tent for \$200. It has a 3 year warranty instead of 2. Lydia talked about another Fusti, or non-glass drink dispenser. A smaller Fusti that is easier to transport and not as big as the one we have would be preferable.

## **2) COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**a. Minutes:** Christine S moved to accept March 1, 2022 minutes, Jane seconded, all approved.

**b. Accounting Report:** New treasurer gave Christine S the report she requested. We have \$1300.

**c. Correspondence:** Selectboard meeting in early March approved a version of our bylaw amendment that bans carbonated non-alcoholic plastic bottles smaller than 21 ounces. Care for Cape and the Islands has asked us to be one of their affiliates, but other affiliates are businesses. Lydia and Christine S feel we don't need to join right now. A Harwich citizen reached out to us about starting a recycling committee, so we recommended they start by naming it the Recycling Committee, Zero Waste Harwich, or Waste Reduction Committee. Mike says the new buzz is Sustainable Material Management Committees.

**d. RC Printed Materials, Banners:** Lydia spoke with Rachel Harrington of Mom's Print Shop in Ptown and got quotes of \$12 per shirt, \$3 per apron, \$5 dish cloth. She doesn't do banners, but she had some suggestions. Name tags - muslin cotton material for a pocket or purse around waist or neck \$3 each. Jaya asked if we were intending to sell these? Chris W suggested that if we're selling them we want something catchy. Packets with bamboo utensils could be a sellable item as well.

**e. Committee vacancies:** two alternates -

**f. Boomerang Bags Cape Cod request to move from Wellfleet to Brewster Ladies Library:**

Gabrielle Griffis of the Brewster Library (former outreach coordinator at the Wellfleet Library) joined us to discuss the Boomerang Bags project in which volunteers make reusable bags out of fabric scraps in a social "sewing bee" type of environment, then distribute them to the community. They used to meet 2-5 PM on Fridays at the Wellfleet library and Erica did a fantastic job. It is a lot of work and Erica doesn't want to do the Boomerang project anymore. Ben Fairbank and Tess took it on for a while, but now Gabrielle wants to get this going at Brewster library as a fun and productive endeavor. It will transition nicely to Brewster. Erica and Gabrielle will send an email to everybody involved. Gabrielle would love to hear from potential volunteers about timings that will work for them. Gabrielle has gotten the Boomerang Bags logo/patches but needs more for the fronts of the bags. Town of Brewster has not resumed any indoor programming. Gabrielle is thinking of asking people to bring their own

machines since storage at the library is difficult. Brewster Library has one sewing machine in their library of things which is not ideal.

### **3) WASTE REDUCTION**

#### **a. Plastic Bottle Ban petitioned article for Annual Town Meeting, final version, outreach:**

We've talked about going to businesses about putting refill stations on the maps. This is a good time to prepare information for email blasts and social media about the new addition to the plastic bottle bill. Christine Legere is working on an article about the plastic soda bottle ban. Lydia suggests we visit the main vendors - Wellfleet Marketplace and Cumberland Farms. Some restaurants are already complying. Distributors don't seem to have a lot of non-plastic alternatives for many beverages.

#### **b. Refill Cape Cod outreach, Discovery Map:** No update.

**c. Beach Cleanup Stations, Wellfleet and Truro:** We're not thrilled about the grocery store-style plastic baskets for cleanup. Christine S sent our suggestions to Suzanne Grout Thomas/Beach Dept. and the DPW. Shall we approach Nauset HS student Peyton who started this? Maybe let the town try the plastic baskets and see how they work. If Wellfleet doesn't use the wooden boxes for reusable trash bags they will find another use.

**d. Bottle Bill Expansion / Universal Redemption law:** Still in committee at the state house. Lydia suggests speaking to Julian Cyr and Sarah Peake.

#### **e. Reduce Aquaculture Plastics:** No update

**f. Shellfish Advisory Board (SAB) annual beach cleanup April 23 from 9-2.:** Barbara Brenessel will be at Mayo Beach from 9-9:30 with map/assignments. Friends of Herring River has volunteered for cleaning the gut. Christine will bring the grabbers.

**g. Reusable Containers / Meals on Wheels / Local Kitchens:** Meals often prepared remotely. Not sure if they're still using black plastic.

### **4) OUTREACH MATERIALS**

**a. Boaters Guide draft 1:** No update.

**b. Textile Recycling Guide distribution:** Lydia put this on the Chamber newsletter.

**c. Provincetown Independent ad / item draft 1:** No update.

**d. Website and Social Media posts:** Christine S making corrections on our town website. Maybe we need a committee to work on our own website and the town website too. Chris W tries to do about one post per week. We have 487 Instagram followers.

**e. Chamber of Commerce guide / website:** Maybe we should use this in the summer. Chris W. suggested we use it for carbonated bottle ban before the vote.

**f. Compost in the news:** No update.

**Next meeting May 3, 2022**