

WELLFLEET RECYCLING COMMITTEE
Minutes for May 3, 2022 at 11:00 PM
Virtual Zoom Meeting, Recorded

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

Others Present: Mike Cicale (Wellfleet Transfer Station), Carol Magenau(Wellfleet Energy & Climate Action Committee), Gary Senecal (Eastham Recycling Committee)

Lydia Vivante called the meeting to order at 11:03 AM.

Announcements:

- Christine Shreves is in Provincetown for a follow-up to the Earth Day Beach Cleanup with the Center for Coastal Studies. She provided some RC updates to Lydia.
- Unofficial election results are posted on the Town Website: SelectBoard member Mike DeVasto and write-in candidate Barbara Carboni won seats on the SelectBoard, and Dan Silverman was re-elected as Town Moderator.

UPDATES

a. Transfer Station / Recycling Center: Mike Cicale was pleased to announce a successful amnesty day on April 23, 2022. 318 cars in addition to the usual Saturday Transfer Station traffic passed through the gates. The crew worked straight out for 5.5 hours, dealing with about 55 loads per hour. 36 tons of Construction +Demolition were deposited, and townspeople were glad to have Amnesty Day back after a two-year hiatus. Chris W was impressed with how well the event was run, and Mike was appreciative of the positive feedback. Although he was short-staffed, Mike liked the new setup for dumping items for Amnesty Day and has a couple of changes in mind for next year. The Swap Shop was busy on both Saturday and Sunday, but most of the Amnesty dumping was more refuse, than furniture.

- Mike thanked the Recycling Committee for supporting the PaintCare bill which will help towns pay for paint recycling programs.
- There is not much screened compost available at the TS yet, however unscreened compost is available.
- Wellfleet trash is currently being diverted to SEMASS (where it is burned) through New Bedford Waste which is trying to make big changes. Mike is continuing to research food waste composting programs.

b. Eastham Recycling Committee (ERC): Gary Senecal announced Eastham's plans to begin compost operations at the Eastham Transfer Station in 2023. The town sent a survey to Eastham residents asking how much residents know about composting and whether they would be interested in participating in town-wide composting. Gary will share the survey with Lydia/RC.

- ERC is still looking for members to fill their ranks.
- All six water refill stations in Eastham are going to be installed by Memorial Day, 2022.

c. Energy & Climate Action Committee liaison: Carol Magenau had no updates.

d. Annual Calendar notes: Lydia shared her screen with the RC Annual Calendar

- Memorial Day, May 30, 2022 - town-wide yard sale at the TS.
- After Memorial Day the TS will be open daily.
- Free Wellfleet was successful last year as an online organized Freecycle event especially well suited for large furniture items. There are no plans for this to be held during May, but perhaps it will be held later. Nancy Vail and Roland Blair are the organizers.
- In June the Town Meeting will be held Saturday June 11, 2022 at 10:00 AM at the Wellfleet Elementary School Ballfield. Dan Silverman (Town Moderator) would like the RC to help with water stations this year, as we did last year. Nancy Najmi will help, picking up water, ice, and manning the water station tent. Lydia will ask Wellfleet Health and Conservation Agent Hillary Greenberg-Lemos to invite the Americorps volunteers to help with the water stations as they did last year.
- The Wellfleet Historical Society & Museum (WHS&M) will hold their annual Strawberry Festival on Sunday June 19, 2022. Nancy will ask the organizers if they will borrow the Community Cutlery and Compost buckets for this event.
- Jane's and Jaya's terms on the RC will expire on June 30, 2022. They need to inform Wellfleet Principal Clerk Jeanne Maclauchlan ((508) 349-0300) if they intend to continue on the RC for another term.
- June is the time to look into MassDEP microgrants: compost outreach with events like compost tours is one idea to consider.

e. Public Works Refill Stations progress: Ongoing - Lydia reported that Christine S saw our refill station app on Orleans Discovery Map. We'll need to update or remove "planned" refill stations in Wellfleet and Eastham.

f. RC Printed Materials, banners; Library of Things photos, new equipment Lydia reported that Christine S used the tax exempt form from the town and ordered a blue 10 x 10 foot tent for the "Library of Things".

- Chris W and Olivia took photos of the items in the “Library of Things”. Once the photos are organized with descriptions they’ll pass images to the library to post on their website.
- Lydia has not moved on the banners yet. Do we want the banners to read “Wellfleet Recycling Committee” or “Wellfleet Recycles”? Jaya suggested “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle”. Chris W suggested a banner with “Wellfleet Recycling Committee”, then “Reduce Reuse Recycle” beneath. Lydia will order them soon. Chris W is still thinking about a more catchy slogan for dish towels etc

g. Swap Shop, new building; Yard Sale at the Dump (May 28) On Memorial Day Saturday a town-wide yard sale will be held at the Swap Shop with proceeds benefiting the Sea Prize Scholarship which is available to Nauset High School and Cape Cod Tech High School students who are working on environmental issues. Harriet Korim (former RC member) is running this with the help of Roland Blair (Swap Shop coordinator).

2. WASTE REDUCTION

a. Earth Day Weekend Annual Beach Cleanups: Lydia found Duck Harbor clean and since the National Seashore Rangers had already put plover lines up, she didn’t go behind the dunes. The parking lot had more trash than the beach leading her to believe that most trash might be coming off the boats in the summer. Nancy picked up broken lobster pot parts and ropes from Newcomb Hollow Beach, and Christine S picked up a lot of trash on Long Point in Provincetown.

b. Plastic Bottle Ban petitioned article for SEPTEMBER Special Town Meeting: No update.

c. Refill Cape Cod outreach: No update.

d. Bottle Bill Expansion draft letter to our legislators / Universal Redemption law: Lydia shared criteria from the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) about expanding the bottle bill: Any bill must have: 1. Standards in the law, 2. Explicit performance targets, 3. Clear definitions, 4. Broad list of beverage containers covered, 5. Deposit value of at least 10 cents, 6. Universal return to retail.

- There will be incentives for businesses to participate in a universal bottle bill. Should the RC consider supporting the universal bottle bill in a resolution or a letter? Olivia supports a higher deposit like 50 cents for soda to make any substantial changes, but the current proposal is only 10 cents (Maine’s bottle bill is 15 cents deposit, including wine bottles). Olivia wants to talk to Mike Cicale before extending support. Currently the higher value plastic bottles and cans play into the formula for the final recycling tipping fees that the TS pays, and this universal bill doesn’t reduce plastic per se, but changes the recycling stream.

e. Reduce Aquaculture Plastics / Lobster ‘weak rope’ news: CAI radio recently covered a pilot program to use weak rope in lobster traps that would break when encountered by a whale or other large sea creature. This means more plastic in the ocean, and if it breaks into small bits

it can be ingested by an assortment of sea creatures. Ropeless lobstering is starting this spring - depending on how it goes it may be a solution to rope debris and entanglement.

f. Beach Cleanup: Stations in Wellfleet and Truro (Summer 2022) No update

g. Reusable Containers Survey / Meals on Wheels / Local Kitchens; We are interested in seeing the Eastham compost survey. As reported last month, a lot of programs like "Meals on wheels" use meals that are packaged elsewhere and delivered. Reducing plastic food packaging for these programs would therefore need to be addressed on a state or regional level.

3. OUTREACH MATERIALS

a. Library of Things photos: Chris W and Olivia are organizing these.

b. Pay As You Throw (PAYT) - Wellfleet Health and Conservation Agent Hillary Greenberg-Lemos is working on getting more mini purple PAYT bags. They are sold at Mid-Cape Home Centers (Orleans & Wellfleet), Shaw's, Stop & Shop (Orleans & Provincetown), and Wellfleet Marketplace.

c. Polystyrene notes (school by school programs) - Jill Talladay of CARE for the Cape & Islands, wanted to know if the Wellfleet Elementary School uses-polystyrene tableware/ food containers. The school nurse says they don't use any styrofoam/polystyrene in their food service; they switched to reusable/washable tableware.

d. Boaters Guide / Textile Recycling Guide / distribution: pending, Lydia sent the guide to Wellfleet Harbormaster but hasn't heard back Chris W would like to post some of this info about green boat cleaning on Instagram.

e. Provincetown Independent ad - we have some money to spend by July 1, 2022 so a public service/recycling information ad might be a good idea. What size ad do we want, and do we want to share an ad from the Recycling Committees from Provincetown to Eastham? Chris W suggested putting the boat info on the ad. Chris W volunteered to create the ad and Lydia will share the draft of the Boater's Guide.

f. Website and Social Media posts: Chris W trying to post on Instagram once per week. She has posted about bar shampoos, Earth Day clean up, information about "Tanglers"- things that get tangled in recycling, information about what ISN'T recyclable-like receipts -because they're toxic/coated with Bisphenol A, and boat shrinkwrap programs.

g. Chamber of Commerce guide / website: We have a little page on the Chamber website which might be ready for editing.

h. Discovery Map 2022 look for ReFill Cape Cod ad: Congratulations to Chris W on her ReFill Cape Cod decal, which is part of the ad in Wellfleet/Eastham and Orleans Discovery Maps.

MINUTES: Jane moved to approve the Wellfleet Recycling Committee minutes from April 5, 2022. Olivia seconded, and all approved 6-0.

ACCOUNTING REPORT: New town accountant is very responsive, Christine S spent \$200 for a tent.

CORRESPONDENCE: The Cumberland Farms ecotainer covers don't fit on coffee cups so people are told to bring their own cups. It was unclear to the writer whether ecotainer covers go into recycling or trash. The covers carry a claim to be compostable but in practical terms that works only in a high heat setting, not in an outdoor pile. Coffee cup lids are not recyclable, black ones rigid polystyrene, and others are not reliably recyclable. Chris W will do a post about compostable plastics. Black Earth Composting has a list of what they accept and why, although Wellfleet Transfer Station Compost does not accept any compostable plastics. Olivia recently purchased a product wrapped in "home compostable plastic" and she has put it into her bin to test its compostability.

COMMITTEE VACANCIES: Two alternate positions are unfilled.

Meeting was adjourned 11:57AM

Next meeting June 7, 2022