

WELLFLEET RECYCLING COMMITTEE
Minutes for June 6, 2023
Virtual Zoom Meeting, Recorded

Present: Christine Shreves, Lydia Vivante, Nancy Najmi, Jaya Karlson

Christine Shreves called the meeting to order at 11:24.

Announcements: Ryan Curley of the Wellfleet SelectBoard asked the Recycling Committee (RC) to review the “nips” ban that Brewster just passed. The RC proposed a nips ban last year, and now the SelectBoard is ready to support one. Mashpee, Wareham, Chelsea, Boston, Brookline are considering similar actions. Brewster recently banned single miniature liquor containers. Christine S will speak to Meg of the Brewster Recycling Commission about whether they did outreach with the stores in town. According to the Provincetown Independent there was a lot of blowback from the Eastham businesses at their town meeting about the efforts for eliminating plastic take out containers.

WES Spaghetti Dinner Report: Lydia and Nancy agreed that the Zero Waste Spaghetti Dinner went very well. Beverage dispensers were filled with water flavored with mint and lemon, stainless steel cups donated by SPAT were available and ceramic mugs were provided for coffee. Leon Shreves and Nancy picked up the 150 dinner plates borrowed from the Truro Central School, and Christine and Lydia wrapped at least 150 sets of silverware with napkins from the Wellfleet Library of Things. Nauset Regional High school volunteers helped with clearing tables and scraping food waste into buckets. We emptied the buckets into the 64 gallon food waste wheeled cart outside and nearly filled it. The WES kids were helpful, and trained for dealing with food waste. Claudia Cope-Crosen did a great job coordinating this and her husband was efficient at running the dishwasher. More than 200 people attended so the dishes were used for two dining shifts. Lydia and Nancy were joined by volunteers Bill Carlson and Lonni Briggs. The only disposable tableware were the bowls and spoons for ice cream donated by PJ’s.

Calendar-Mass Oyster Project: We need to choose dates for the Farmers Market table, Wednesdays from 8-12. Lydia will suggest June 21 and 28 to Erica and Mark of the Mass Oyster Project, who will be stationed next to us with display and educational materials. Allyssa can place us in the grove or the alley. Set up begins at 7:15, with break down at noon. Nancy volunteered for June 21. Christine S said we can do nips outreach at the market also.

July 9 Road Race: The Wellfleet Recreation Department asked the RC to staff a water station at the finish line. Volunteers will gather at 7:30 to set up. Last year we filled water dispensers at the Recreation Building and we accidentally connected to the hot water at the Bookstore Restaurant. Lydia will check if we can access water from the Kendrick fire hydrant, and will also ask the Bookstore Restaurant if we can use their water spigot again. Hoses will be used to spray runners and to fill the kiddy pool. We'll bring the food grade hose from our shed and the Recreation Department will bring their four hoses. The race organizers have requested 800 cups. We have ordered some 12 ounce cups with Bio Lining made from plants. Becky still has some of the 7 oz cups from last year which are marked compostable but not sure they are bpi certified. Lydia will look into the cups, Friends of Wellfleet Recreation will purchase them.

We'll bring the Fusti stainless water dispensers, utility cart, tent, table, x-frames with bags, and banners. We need two to four volunteers max, and may need more volunteers in October for the Shuck and Run Race. Christine S noted we often don't have much to do at the water stations.

Expanded bottle ban: The town is distributing a letter to businesses to explain to consumers why there are not certain plastic beverage containers available. The pre-town meeting and election information forums sometimes get the questions and concerns out.

Food Rescue planning: Lydia signed up for the June 12 panel discussion about food rescue. They are looking for people to help with software development. The Chamber of Commerce dinner at Winslow's Tavern benefited the food pantry and Lydia learned from Sandra Galvin that there is an upcoming training in Boston regarding food store donations.

Community classified: The Outer Cape Recycling Committees have posted helpful information in the Provincetown Independent newspaper each week. Thank you to Lydia for coordinating Wellfleet's contribution. This month's article is about dump dirt that can be picked up at the TS and Lee Bartell had a good post about Eastham's new food composting initiative.

Social media Chris W had an effective post showing appreciation for businesses doing a good green job. Jaya wonders if there is a list of local restaurant locations which use responsible packaging and if it is available to visitors. It would be a good idea if we do this. Christine S suggested surveying local food businesses. Jaya will look into this.

Library of Things (LOT): Lots of items were borrowed in May. Lydia wonders if WES wants their own supply of dishes or if borrowing from Truro best. Truro has bowls for their soup supper. We should make a list of community dishes available from the various Outer Cape towns.

Christine S said the Chamber has an 8 foot folding table for us. We'll store it at the RC. Recently donated linens from a wedding included (15) 120 inch wide cheap polyester tablecloths. After laundering most had grease spots. We may need to donate these to the Swap Shop. Two large rectangular tablecloths and two square ones were in good shape for the LOT.

Lydia found champagne flutes at the Methodist thrift shop in Ptown. Christine S said Hedda also donated some glasses to LOT.

Lydia said Diane Hall of Van Rensselaer's Restaurant has items for LOT.

Swap Shop update - We will ask Roland Blair for an update.

Refill Station: Still not installed at the marina. We need to ask Will Sullivan, the harbormaster about progress.

Take out container surveys - No progress on the surveys has been made. Jaya noted that stainless tiffins are expensive but the best containers. Jaya is checking out glass containers with better lids for comparison. Christine S described research the Food Pantry has done around reusable, microwavable, dishwasher-safe plastic. They are considering purchasing such plastic containers, charge a deposit, then return the deposit when the container is returned. Another suggestion is for people to bring wide mouth thermos containers to restaurants for leftovers and they last a long time.

Minutes: Christine S moved to approve the April 4, 2023 minutes, Lydia seconded, and they were approved 4-0.

Lydia moved to approve the May 2, 2023 minutes, Jaya seconded, and they were approved 4-0.

Accounting report - The RC has about \$190 to spend by June 30, 2023. We recently bought cotton napkins, and Lydia moved we buy another 4 dozen cloth napkins since they are popular. Nancy seconded all in favor 4-0. CS has \$30 from boomerang bags from the library, and will deposit into the RC account.

Vacancies: - Carol is listed as a regular member, because regular members must be filled before alternates.

Next meeting will be very brief to get something together for the Selectboard to address the nips ban. Suggested dates are June 20, 2023 at 3:30, or June 21, 2023 at 2

Meeting adjourned 12:16.