

WELLFLEET RECYCLING COMMITTEE (RC)
Minutes for October 3, 2023
Virtual Zoom Meeting, Recorded

Present: Christine Shreves, Lydia Vivante, Nancy Najmi, Jaya Karlson, Olivia Krauss, Chris Wisniewski, Nancy Gralla

Others Present: Mike Cicale (Wellfleet Transfer Station (TS)), Frank Soloman

Christine Shreves called the meeting to order at 11:00.

Announcements and Introductions:

- Nancy Gralla has been in Wellfleet over the last four years, having vacationed here for the past twenty five years. She has a background in public health and environmental health and was sworn in as an alternate member of the RC this week.
- Frank Solomon is listening in to this meeting. He is interested in getting involved with the community, and wants to learn more about the RC.
- The Mass Oyster Project presence at the Wellfleet Farmer's market is winding down, as the Farmer's Market will also close soon for the season.
- Provincetown Transfer Station will hold a regional Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection on Saturday October 7, 2023 from 9-12.

Shuck and Run Road Race:

- Set up is at 8 AM, race starts at 9 AM.
- Olivia has volunteered to help.
- Lydia will help until 10 AM.
- The RC bought a case of paper waxed cups (compostable) and hope to be reimbursed by the Recreation Department. At the summer race the Rec Dept provided plastic cups.
- We will bring the 10 liter and 15 liter stainless water dispensers, which Christine S will pick up from the library. She will pick up the recycling x-frames, hoses and nozzle from the TS, and will bring an extra dog bowl, her own card table, rocks to hold down items in case of wind, and a grabber for cleanup. Lydia will pick up and bring the umbrella and stand from the TS, if it's not too windy. Christine S will drop off stuff, then leave for a bit, and return by 10 to help clean up.
- The race begins and ends at Mayo Beach parking lot with a turn-around at the Chequessett Neck Rd Herring River Overlook parking lot.

Coastsweep:

- Denny O'Connell of the Wellfleet Conservation Trust has registered for Coastsweep and invites all other local environmental groups to join in. We have a permit to clean up the bayside, and will follow up with the National Park Service.
- Volunteers will meet at Mayo Beach on October 9, and sign a liability form before heading out.
- Lydia will bring agricultural feed bags for trash, and individuals should bring gardening gloves.
- We will start at Duck Harbor with some volunteers heading north, some heading south, and some starting at the Gut and heading south. Last year there was a lot of refuse at the Gut. High tide will be at 8:30 AM.
- Denny will provide tally sheets for categories of trash, and Christine S will bring some extra. The Cleanswell app from Ocean Conservancy is another way to tabulate the trash.
- At the end of the clean-up we will transport the trash back to Mayo Beach where Denny will take it all in his truck.

Social Media update by Chris W:

- Posts about the TS get many comments commending the staff there and Chris wants Mike to know how positively the community feels about the TS.
- Info on furniture, construction material and re-color options available at the Habitat for Humanity Re-Store have been posted.
- October 31, 2023 is the last day of paint recycling at the TS. It will resume on April 1, 2024.

Community Preservation Funding for water refill stations:

- Orleans used Community Preservation Funding for water refill stations, and we are trying to adapt this to Wellfleet, to hasten the installation.
- The application deadline is soon; Lydia is not sure if there is time to apply for funds this year.
- DPW has set aside \$20,000 for refill station/bubbler/dog water for the town hall.
- The RC has \$2000 for water station installation, but it only works where there is town water.
- The original water station at Baker Field warrants a cooler as in the summer people find the water too tepid.
- CARE for Cape Cod observed the Baker field water station and found it insufficiently maintained in addition to having plastic cups on top of it.
- Jaya volunteered to clean the outside Baker Field Water station, and Lydia will send her the cleaning and maintenance instructions.

Plastic bottle outreach:

- In May we did some outreach.
- People know about it so there are stainless bottles observable around town.
- Christine S will remove this item from future agendas.

Nips ban post mortem:

- The September 18 Special Town Meeting was very disappointing, especially with three selectboard members speaking against the Nip ban, and the initiative not passing.
- Alan Robinson from Falmouth wants to speak with us about our efforts in case we want to go forward or wait for a more regional approach. Nancy Gralla will talk to him and invite him to a future meeting.
- Alan Kokus of Seaside Liquors said they would lose \$20000 per year if the Nips ban passed.
- Chris W feels that we need to focus the message more if we try a future ban. Are the liquor stores collecting nips bottles or participating in clean ups? What if the liquor stores adopt a section of highway near their stores?
- Lydia will invite the three Wellfleet liquor store owners to future meetings to speak with us when we do a roadside cleanup.
- Jaya pointed out that focusing on clean ups after using plastic doesn't address the bigger issue of reducing plastics in the environment.
- An expanded bottle deposit law will not fix anything.
- Wayne Clough was working with Alan distributing the anti-Nips ban literature. He wants to talk to us about Adopt a Highway at a future meeting. Adopt a Highway is for state roadways - Conservation Trust and Community Forum do this - state provides yellow bags and picks them up after the clean-up. Nancy Gralla volunteered to work with Wayne Clough about future clean-ups.

Oysterfest Shell recycling:

- Volunteers are still needed.
- Christine S will send the plea out
- Frank is interested in helping out with Oysterfest, and will confirm.

Minutes:

Christine S moved to approve the August 1, 2023 and Sept 5, 2023 minutes. Chris W seconded, all approved 6-0.

Chris W and Olivia had to leave the meeting at 11:38.

Winter Wednesdays, Boomerang Bags, and Fixit clinics:

- Last year Sharon Rule-Agger, Marcia Sexton and Lydia Vivante kept the Boomerang Bag events running last year, but they were lightly attended.
- There is a Boomerang Bag event scheduled at the library for October 21, 2023.
- Lydia suggested doing Boomerang Bags and Fixit Clinics on Winter Wednesdays. January 2020 was the last fixit clinic held in Wellfleet. This would require the recruitment of coaches along with specialized tools, electric, mechanical, menders etc.

Community Classified:

- PTown Independent, Paint recycling ends Oct 31
- Chamber Newsletter post on community cutlery was good. Perhaps we can add to their green tips as well.

Library of Things (LoT):

- Christine S and Lydia have been really busy with tableware orders this season.
- It requires a lot of work to put tableware kits together, list them, deal with inquiries, and track loaned materials. The online sheets are hard to keep up, a RC member needs to physically be present to check items in and out.
- We need a pool of people to respond to particular events. Nancy Gralla volunteered.
- A large wedding in November has reserved tableware.
- A meeting is planned with Naomi about some stuff in CLAMS that the library deals with.
- The big stuff is managed by the RC. We need to figure out better access to heavy items to avoid injuries. Lydia suggested more crates with lower loads, and made a motion to spend up to \$200 on more pine crates. Christine S seconded, all approved 4-0.

Two 120 gallon water monsters (large plastic water bubblers) are no longer being used by Oyster Fest are at the TS. Lydia suggested that they might work for irrigation. Christine S will ask Mike if we should post it for sale.

Reusable food containers: Christine S works at the food pantry with one of the coordinators for the PTown food pantry who researched food containers and only found durable plastic that is dishwasher microwave safe. That option was turned down by their board so they are still using disposable containers.

Aquaculture plastics: Artificial reefs are being created by placing oyster shells in plastic net bags and Lydia is trying to ascertain whether the net bags are staying in the water or just used for the shell transportation.

Accounting: we have \$1500 from the town. Wix and domain name payments of about \$300 are going out this fall and we just approved \$200 for crates.

One alternate position is available on the Recycling Committee.

RC Subcommittees: In the future we are looking to assign more formal subcommittees to reduce the load that has been falling on the co-chairs, Christine Shreves and Lydia Vivante.

Meeting adjourned 11:55.