

## WELLFLEET RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes for January 7, 2020

Wellfleet Library Meeting Room 11 am

*Members Present:* Lonni Briggs, Jane Sharp, Christine Shreves, Lydia Vivante, Chris Wisniewski

*Members Absent:* Bethia Brehmer, Jaya Carlson

*Others Present:* Madhavi Venkatesa & Suzanna Nickerson (Sustainable Practices), Mike Cicale (DPW), Carol Magenau (Energy & Climate Action Committee liaison), Peter Lynch

Meeting called to order at 11:00 am by Christine Shreves.

1. Megan Hinton was not able to attend, but her proposal for a Swap Shop pop up art show was discussed (letter attached). Lydia stated need to submit 'Use of Town Property' request, and consult with Swap Shop coordinator Roland & his volunteers, as well as the DPW.  
Primary issue raised was logistics of temporarily emptying Swap Shop since there is no alternative storage available. We will communicate issues to Megan but we like the idea.
2. Madhavi presented Sustainable Practice's Commercial Single-Use Plastic Water Bottle Ban language, which they hope to bring to Town Meeting in all 11 Cape towns that passed the 2019 Municipal Plastic Bottle ban. Ban is for non-carbonated, unflavored drinking water in single-use plastic bottles less than one gallon. Reasons for using common language in all towns was discussed, as well as why other single serve beverages were not included.  
Motion made by Christine to accept SP's version for a citizen petition, Jane seconded, approved 5-0. RC will collect signatures and file with Town Clerk by mid-February (deadline is Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>). Sustainable Practice documents attached.
3. Co-chairs will be meeting with Library staff January 14<sup>th</sup> to discuss Community Cutlery merging with a proposed Library of Things. Infrequently used appliances, tools, musical instruments, VCR players have been mentioned. Suggestions were solicited. Framingham good example of Library of Things offerings.
4. ReFill Wellfleet stations: Marina station to be installed in the spring, alternate location for Town Hall station under consideration.
5. Chris brought up difficulty of getting clear answer to an Instagram post question about recycling prescription bottles. Other posts were discussed. Chris to send query to MassDEP RecycleSmart website.
6. RecycleSmart info card reprint: Chris has cleared content with Mike, Lydia made motion to approve expenditure of up to \$250 for 200 copies, Christine seconded, approved 5-0.
7. Producer responsibility letter-writing: Lydia will send letter to local pharmacy about possible alternatives to prescription bottles that are not readily recyclable.
8. Town accounting system conversion still in progress, RC report not available, Christine to follow up.
9. Minutes for November 2019 & December 2019 distributed and approved.
10. Peter Lynch present to discuss his proposal to build an industrial compost facility in Wellfleet for commercial & residential use. Lydia brought up previous efforts, and suggested he discuss with Kari Parcell of MassDEP. Email attached.

The meeting was over at 12:25.

Notes by Christine Shreves

Attachments:

Megan Hilton letter

Commercial Single-Use Plastic Water Bottle Ban Petition

Peter Lynch letter

January 7, 2020

Megan Hinton  
16 Meadow View  
Wellfleet, MA  
02667  
[megan@meganhinton.com](mailto:megan@meganhinton.com)  
508-332-0518

### **The Swap Shop Show**

Dear Wellfleet Recycling Committee,

I spoke to Lydia Vivante recently about proposing a pop-up art exhibit at the Swap Shop sometime in near future. My proposal entails acting as curator for a group of ten to twenty Wellfleet visual artists to gather materials at the Swap to make a work of art. I envision making a requirement that roughly 95% of materials for the assemblage, sculpture, or experimental work be from the Swap. The other 5% for glue, screws, etc. After an extended making period granted to the artists I would propose clearing out the SWAP off all contents to transform it into a temporary "gallery" space, then have an opening reception for the public to see the works in context.

My vision is multifaceted. First it creatively allows artists to use and repurposes the materials at the Swap as a vehicle for art making and contradicts traditional notions of buying expensive materials to make art. The idea is something informal and found with a history of use transforms into a formal work of art. The exhibition would also offer an alternative to the commercial and institutional art exhibitions in this alternative space of The Swap Shop. Imagine the fun and folly of an art opening at the town dump! Finally it may act as a fund raiser for The Recycling Committee and financial support for the artists. A percentage of potential sales of the work going to both the artist and the committee.

Questions for me arise about when to hold the pop-up show, gaining approval to clear out The Swap Shop temporarily for the event, and gaining approval from all town entities, The Select Board, DPW, etc?

I am currently finishing my master's degree in California so I won't be back to Wellfleet until June of 2020 when at that time I can begin the curatorial and organizational duties. In the meantime I can be reached by email or phone with questions.

Sincerely,

Megan Hinton

## **Article #: Commercial Single-Use Plastic Water Bottle Ban**

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following as a general by-law and to insert it into the Code of the Town of Wellfleet, Massachusetts.

### **Section 1. Sale of Single-use Plastic Water Bottles**

Effective on September 1, 2021, it shall be unlawful to sell non-carbonated, unflavored drinking water in single-use plastic bottles of less than one gallon in the Town of Wellfleet. Enforcement of this regulation will begin September 1, 2021.

### **Section 2. Definitions**

A single-use plastic bottle is a beverage container made from any type of plastic resin.

### **Section 3. Exemptions**

Sales or distribution of non-carbonated, unflavored drinking water in single-use plastic bottles occurring subsequent to a declaration of emergency (by the Emergency Management Director or other duly authorized Town, County, Commonwealth or Federal official) affecting the availability and/or quality of drinking water to residents of the Town shall be exempt from this bylaw until seven days after the declaration has ended.

### **Section 4. Enforcement**

Enforcement of this article shall be the responsibility of the Town Manager or his/her designee. The Town Manager shall determine the inspection process to be followed, incorporating the process into other Town duties as appropriate.

Any establishment conducting sales in violation of this article shall be subject to a non-criminal disposition fine as specified in G. L. Chapter 40 § 21D. The following penalties apply:

- First violation: Written warning
- Second violation: \$150 fine
- Third and subsequent violations: \$300 fine

Each day a violation continues constitutes a separate violation, incurring additional fines. Any such fines collected shall be payable to the Town of Wellfleet.


All businesses will be routinely inspected until the Town Manager deems the inspection to no longer be required.

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### **Rationale: Will be included as an explanation for the Article in the warrant.**

Single-use plastic bottles impact environmental health, and the health and longevity of other species, who may ingest plastic as food. Ultimately, plastic re-enters the human food chain where the adverse consequences are both known and emerging. Plastics pollute and impact our environment across their lifecycle from production to use to disposal.

Over 1,500 single-use plastic water bottles are used and discarded in the U.S. per second. Elimination of the use of single-use plastic water bottles will have a significant impact on future plastic-based pollution including the nation's greenhouse gas footprint and is consistent with protection of the natural environment in Wellfleet, Barnstable County, our nation and our earth, which we have a common responsibility to protect and steward.

**From:** pml1191 . pml1191@gmail.com   
**Subject:** For your consideration.  
**Date:** December 23, 2019 at 12:04 AM  
**To:** wellfleetrecycles@gmail.com



Dear Wellfleet Recycling Committee,

I am writing to propose the building of a composting facility in Wellfleet to be operated at an industrial scale. As it stands the nearest composting is located in Falmouth and is restricted on the materials for which it can handle. With the recent change from plastics to compostable restaurant wear we as a community find ourselves with a unique opportunity to operate at near zero waste. While the switch has been a step in the right direction, PLA/Ingeo/Earthfirst or other PLA 'compostable' plastics do not compost in a residential compost pile and must be commercially composted.

With a proper facility we could accept more food waste and compostable products without restriction which would more successfully help our community move toward its goal of zero-waste. Without a proper facility and correct education from a community composting program the compostable plastics can not efficiently decompose and can even contaminate the recycling stream when mistakenly recycled.

For the correct environment to properly dispose of most restaurant waste there are 2 methods which would be appropriate. **Option 1: In-Vessel Composting Option 2: Aerated (turned) Windrow Composting.** Both of these methods would be appropriate for handling virtually any type of organic waste, can handle large volume, and can reach the temperatures required to decompose compostable plastics. Information on industrial composting can be found on the EPA's website as well as information on compostable plastics.

<https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/types-composting-and-understanding-process>  
<https://www.epa.gov/trash-free-waters/frequently-asked-questions-about-plastic-recycling-and-composting>

In 2014, the state instituted the Commercial Food Material Disposal Ban. The ban prohibited disposal of commercial organic wastes by businesses and institutions, such as hospitals and universities, that get rid of a ton or more of these materials per week. Under the new plan, the threshold would be reduced to a ½-ton per week by 2022, likely affecting midsize restaurants. While this does not affect us currently it foreshadows upcoming government mandated sustainability. With the high volume of business done during summer months at restaurants in Wellfleet this could prove to be an issue in the near future. According to the EPA, 60-80% of garbage produced by restaurants was food waste, 24% of household waste was food waste, and we must also take into consideration both grocery and landscaping waste. These numbers could be even higher with the switch off of plastic goods.

Burning trash releases dioxin (toxic) into the air, landfills release methane (30% more heat trapped than CO<sub>2</sub>), while compost releases CO<sub>2</sub> and has a beneficial byproduct of nitrogen rich compost fertilizer. With little to no options on cape for industrial composting we are left resorting to sorting out what few items are acceptable in backyard composting for which most people would rather just throw everything in the trash out of convenience.

Thanks to you Wellfleet has been making strides at staying ahead of the curve on sustainable waste management and i look forward to seeing what the future holds.

Thank you,  
**Peter Lynch**  
**C: (413) 388-3800**  
**E: [Pml1191@gmail.com](mailto:Pml1191@gmail.com)**