

WELLFLEET RECYCLING COMMITTEE (RC)
Minutes for November 7, 2023
Virtual Zoom Meeting, Recorded

Present: Christine Shreves, Nancy Najmi, Nancy Gralla (Alternate), Carol Magenau (Alternate), Olivia Krauss, Chris Wisniewski, Jaya Karlson

Others Present: Mike Cicale (Wellfleet Transfer Station (TS)), Kari Parcell (MassDEP/Barnstable County)

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

Announcements and Introductions:

- Chris W told Mike Cicale that every post about the TS receives wonderful comments. Mike appreciated the feedback.
- The Rising tide of Plastic Pollution: Sustainable Business Solutions sponsored by CARE for the Cape and Islands is meeting in Harwich on Thursday, November 9, 2023.

Transfer Station/Recycling Center: Mike noted that Lenny Federico passed away after having worked at the Recycling Station for the past eleven seasons. He will be missed and a big memorial is being planned for the spring.

Black Earth Compost Company will come to Wellfleet to pick up food waste. They will put compostable liners in the 64 gallon buckets and haul away the compost at the same price as Watts family farm. Mike isn't sure if Black Earth plans to include household subscription pick up for Wellfleet residents in the future. Olivia asked about whether compostable bags will now be accepted in the TS compost. Mike will check for clarification before changing the signs at the compost area. Kari noted that Black Earth is picking up compost in four Cape Cod towns but Harwich, Orleans, Sandwich and Provincetown do not have any food composting available at their TSs.

Mike is planning to add info about the increase in prices for some trash like tires, etc.

Christine and Mike talked about tin/plastic recycling, MRF sorting machinery can't take nips, but the baled recyclables can include smaller bottles. Wellfleet sort levels give us more opportunities. Christine said some people think all the recycling is burned. Mike said there is money in the business, so unlikely it's getting burned. Our audit helps them take our separated

stuff. Non MRF (Materials Recovery Facility) processors can't take single stream stuff. Where does our trash go? To SEMASS in West Wareham - waste contracted for a few years.

Mass DEP/Barnstable County: Kari pulled up her spreadsheet for Recycling Dividend Points (RDP). In 2022 Wellfleet claimed 22 points and received 18, making it the top earner in Barnstable County. For 2023 Wellfleet again earned 18 points, but the top county earners got 20 points. The total monetary award to the Wellfleet TS based on the RDP program is \$45,000. Mike is spending the awards on necessary equipment for the TS that is not covered in the town's budget.

On Nov 15, 8-3, Kari will facilitate a working group updating attendees on solid waste, hazardous waste, universal waste and commercial vendors. Mike plans to attend.

Energy and Climate Action Committee: Carol reported that they are working on a climate action plan, talking about getting all the town buildings electrified, and crafting a proposal to town meeting that all the electricity the town buys come from 100% renewable sources (\$19,000 extra per year). The state of Massachusetts currently mandates that municipalities use 26% renewable energy. The Wellfleet landfill solar farm is contracted with other Cape Cod towns so it does not cover all of the town's electricity needs.

Carol wrote the section of the climate action report on food: food production, packaging and transportation contributes 26% of all global greenhouse gas emissions, with beef production having the highest carbon footprint. Carol would like help getting info from restaurants about their practices with three questions: 1. What do they do with food waste? (ie: food pantry, compost), 2. Sustainable packaging? 3. More vegan options? Carol asked us to bring any relevant food info back from the November 9th Care for the Cape & Islands meeting. Carol has a meeting set up with the owners of Van Rensselaer's, and would like to talk to the chairperson of the food pantry. Kari pointed out that this is similar to a project that Andrea Marczely (andrea.marczely@barnstablecounty.org) of Food Rescue US is conducting, and Lydia Vivante will be a helpful contact in this endeavor. Christine S said that the Wellfleet food bank is trying to connect with vegetable donations from supermarkets, but so far is only able to rescue bakery items.

Bakers Field water station clean up: The water refill station got somewhat cleaned. Christine S contacted the vendor who thinks there are minerals in the water that are staining the water spouts and drains.

Nov 18 Dec 16, 2023 Boomerang Bags - Sharon Rule-Agger and Marcia Sexton will run these at the library. They are planning small projects for people to make tea towels, napkins, etc.

Swap Shop: The new building should go up in the spring. Maybe we can hold an expo with representatives from Black Earth Composting, Electric Vehicle information, and other environmental vendors.

Nips follow-up with local liquor stores: Nancy G spoke by phone to the owners of the three liquor stores in Wellfleet and invited them to today's meeting. She met with Al Kokus of Seaside Liquors in person and he said that his distributors are aware of the nips litter issue and have volunteered to pick up litter and trash along the highway three or four times per year. Al will ask them for more details.

Wayne Clough coordinates the Adopt-a-highway litter pick up along route 6 in Wellfleet and said that the section between Briar Lane to Truro line doesn't have any volunteers. The Recycling Committee is not ready at this time to adopt a section of highway. Jaya pointed out that the reason the nips ban failed was so that the Liquor Stores would not lose profit brought in by the sale of nips, so it would be preferable if the liquor stores could be held somewhat more accountable for nips litter, and perhaps send their staff to conduct some roadside litter pick up. Nancy N suggested that the liquor stores adopt a highway.

Christine's friend near Lecount Hollow sees a lot of nips litter, and recognizes that the throwers won't change their behavior. She wonders if she can dump them back at the liquor stores for recycling. Nips are not universally recyclable. Mike is uneasy changing rules to allow nips into the recycling bins even though the non-MRF machine can take them. If we lose that vendor we may have to go back to the MRF machine in which nips get
Mike would keep a separate bin for nips, if we ever start recycling nip bottles.

Winter Wednesdays in Provincetown. The Wellfleet Library has posted flyers looking for volunteers who are interested in running a Fixit Clinic or Boomerang Bag event on Winter Wednesdays here in Wellfleet.

Green Tips: Lydia is sending green tips to the Council on Aging (CoA) newsletter, the Chamber of Commerce newsletter and to the Provincetown Independent.

Social Media: Chris W posted about composting pumpkins at the TS, Re-Store and the different items they take, and bulk food stores that use paper bags and mason jars instead of pre-packing. The last post was motivated by a visit to a large store called Provisions in New Milford, CT.

Library of Things (LoT) - At our last meeting we approved \$200 to buy more wood crates for making dinner kits. However it has since become clear that pre-kitting items is not practical. Wheelable metal shelving with crates and bins will work better for collecting and returning. Nancy N moved that the previously approved \$200 be re-allocated to the purchase of shelves. Christine S seconded, all approved 6-0. Christine will let us know when the shelves arrive so that we can help organize the LoT. This summer some items from the LoT were listed on the library CLAMS borrowing network. These items take up a small corner of LoT which library staff can access. The library does not have adequate staff to increase the LoT items in the CLAMS database.

Aquaculture: Christine S explained that Lydia went to a presentation on ropeless buoys and wonders about starting a lending library of solutions for fishermen to try.

October 3, 2023 minutes: Christine S moved we accept the minutes as amended to reflect that Nancy G (not Christine S) will talk to the liquor store owners. Jaya seconded, all approved, 6-0.

Accounting: Our current balance is \$1171 out of \$1500 funding for 2023. Payments include the bill for the Recycling Committee website, domain, and Chamber of Commerce dues. Christine S will deposit a \$55 donation from the library from boomerang bag sales.

Vacancies - one alternate.

Next meeting december 5, 2023