

WELLFLEET RECYCLING COMMITTEE (RC)
Minutes for January 2, 2024
Virtual Zoom Meeting, Recorded

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

Others Present: Kari Parcell (MassDEP/Barnstable County), Alan Kogoss (Seaside Liquors, South Wellfleet)

Christine Shreves called the meeting to order at 11:02.

Announcements and Introductions:

- Alan Kogoss introduced himself, and is glad to attend the RC meeting to discuss the Nips Collection Initiative.

UPDATES & NEWS

Swap Shop / Opening & Spring Expo plans: Spring is still the target date for erecting the new Swap Shop building.

Mass DEP/Barnstable County: Kari reported that the solid waste and recycling surveys were sent out from the DEP today. Towns are being surveyed about trash tonnage, recycling at schools, sticker fees, tipping fees, etc. through February 15, 2024. Mike Cicale and the Town of Wellfleet are good about doing this. Sustainable Materials Recovery Program ([SMRP](#)) grant info is already posted on the DEP website. Grant applications open in April and close in June. Cape and Islands DPW and TS employees are invited to a Solid Waste workshop on Jan 31, 10-1. Kari said Mike C won't be able to attend, but maybe Jay Norton or Jean Leidenfrost (Wellfleet DPW) or a member of the RC can attend.

Energy & Climate Action Committee liaison: Carol reported that they are working on the climate action plan and hope the recent resignation of the Town Administrator will not hamper progress. They have met with the Assistant Town Administrator, who seems to have wonderful experience, and an affable personality.

Baker's Field Water Station clean-up: Jaya cleaned the water station this fall, but the stains did not wash away. The water station manufacturer believes the source water has caused the discoloration/corrosion. But harsh cleaners may also contribute to the discoloration. Christine S or Jaya will contact DPW about maintaining future cleaning of the water station. It is doubtful that the town would install a filter, if the hardness of the water is the issue. The outdoor water refill station at town hall is scheduled for installation this fiscal year.

Holiday Recycling Guide: Lydia did a nice job updating the guide. A recent article in the Provincetown Independent suggested using craft paper for gift wrapping.

Boomerang Bags – Wellfleet Library – Sunday January 21st, 2 to 5PM. Run by Marcia Sexton.

Fixit Clinic – Wellfleet Library – Saturday February 3rd, 1 to 4PM. Lydia and Naomi Czekaj-Robbins at the library have been getting coaches together, if you know any potential coaches, please connect them with Naomi.

Town Annual Report – due early February -Christine S will do a draft and send it to Lydia

Swap Shop Opening & Spring Expo - Spring 2024: Lydia spoke to Roland Blair about hosting a community event- the last Eco Expo was around 2015 and included a vendor selling rain barrels and explaining how they work, and Jaya brought her solar ovens to demonstrate. This would be an opportunity to educate about what can be reused, recycled etc. We should coordinate with the Climate Action Committee, and include e-bikes and e-vehicles for display. Chris W volunteered to bring her electric vehicle.

OUTREACH

Nips collection initiative: Nancy G introduced Alan Kogoss (Seaside Liquors). Alan spoke to Julie Seabury (Wellfleet Spirit Shoppe) and they both want to work with RC and join the community in helping with roadside trash clean-up, etc.

- Alan originally wanted to start collecting Nip bottle deposits on January 1, 2024
- Feb 1, 2024 is a more realistic start date for nip deposit collection to have time to alert customers with signs, emails, ads, social media.
- People have begun dropping off nip bottles at his store.
- Alan is working with liquor distributors, Grove Partners Consulting, and Keep Massachusetts Beautiful to arrange cleanups.
- In November 2023 there was a successful cleanup in Barnstable with community and liquor distributors where they picked up many nips along with other trash.
- Lydia asked if Alan had spoken to distributors about taking back nip bottles, but Alan said the distributors will not take them back until the state passes a bottle bill and forces the distributors to take them. Alan is holding onto the nip bottles for now. Plastic nips are too small to be recyclable.
- Mike said he is looking into off Cape vendors who may recycle the small plastic bottles.
- Alan didn't realize that the glass nips are recyclable.
- Nips are 60 percent plastic bottles vs 40 percent glass.
- Lydia says the future is refilling, Alan says great idea, will try to dig up info.
- Alan used to sell Cape Cod Beer glass 'growlers', but the 4 pack 20 ounce cans are easier to store.
- Christine S reminded Alan that Mike wants to be careful about publicizing that nips are recyclable because that is specific to our TS at this moment in time.
- Wellfleet liquor stores will collect deposit money as they sell nips, and will return

deposit money to people who return nip bottles - in any condition, and will not differentiate between nips found and purchased in Truro etc.

- Kari cautioned Alan against the use of the word recycling. Instead use the terminology of a nip bottle 'take Back' program with a deposit.
- Chris W noted that Kari will be willing to review anything that the liquor stores write.
- Alan will provide his email/text to Kari to continue the conversation. Kari put her email in the chat.
- Alan is looking at different commercial bins for dropping off nip bottles outside the store. Christine S suggested the bin have a lid with a small opening and avoid the recycling symbol, instead having a sign "nips take back".
- Alan says they will save the nip bottles, count them and get customer feedback.

Community Classified, The Provincetown Independent: Lydia is posting about the upcoming Fixit Clinic on Feb. 3

Social Media posts: Chris W said we have 800 followers now on Instagram. After posting about gift wrapping, Heidi from the Customs House paper store often comments that her store carries those items. She will post about recycling old holiday lights, and composting trees in the brush pile. Jaya says some naturalists encourage leaving your tree in your yard for small birds through the winter.

Website: Lydia put the holiday guide on the website, and placed a banner on the homepage noting when our monthly meetings are.

Chamber of Commerce, COA green tips: The RC holiday guide is in their newsletters. We need to figure out what to put in the next newsletters.

Plastic Pollution and Producer Responsibility efforts: Carol got an email from Mass PIRG about producer responsibility. Manufacturers pay a tax based on the total amount of plastic packaging associated with each project. July 21, 2023 Maine, California, Colorado and Oregon have passed bills. Mass. proposed a bill but it didn't pass and didn't have Sarah Peake's name on it. Lydia suggests we find the old proposed legislation for next month. There were 30 sponsors.

WASTE REDUCTION

Library of Things updates: Christine S. ordered two shelves for LoT per last meeting, received four, and would like to get reimbursed for the third shelf that is now full. Lydia made a motion, Nancy seconded and all approved (7-0) reimbursing Christine S for the third shelf. Lydia noticed that people are asking for serving spoons and forks. We have an abundance of wine glasses and plates and need to do an inventory some time.

Fixit Clinic: Saturday February 3, 2024 - setup will be at 12:30, we will provide supplies and have bought special tools for opening electric boxes. Leon Shreves will bring other electronic repair equipment. Wire strippers will be useful as well, perhaps we can add them to the LoT.

Mira will help repair sewing machines, and will help with basic mending (not tailoring).

Food Rescue planning / Black Earth Compost: Invite to the Spring Expo at the TS. The Library evening leftover bakery food is being composted by volunteers. Maybe we can put info about restaurants getting Black Earth compost pick ups in the summer. Christine S will reach out to Mary Anne's Kitchen at the ACC regarding composting.

Reduce Aquaculture Plastics: Ropeless lobster pots send a signal, no buoys, and lobstermen use grappling hooks to pick up the traps. The lobstermen support this alternative during the season when the lobster fishery has been closed to protect right whales.

REPORTS

MINUTES & ACCOUNTING: Christine S moves we approve the minutes from Nov, Lydia seconded, all approved 7-0. We spent \$600 on shelving, \$200 on domain name/website etc, have about \$600 in our budget

VACANCIES : one alternate. Nancy G is the full member, Carol will be the alternate

FUTURE CONCERNS: Wellfleet Elementary School Spaghetti Dinner – Spring 2024
Nauset Regional High School Adulting 101 – Spring 2024

Next meeting: FEBRUARY 6, 2024

Meeting adjourned 11:53 AM