

**WELLFLEET RECYCLING COMMITTEE (RC)**  
**Minutes for March 12, 2024**  
**Virtual Zoom Meeting, Recorded**

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

**Others Present:** Kari Parcell (MassDEP/Barnstable County), Roland Blair (Swap Shop)

Christine Shreves called the meeting to order at 11:01.

**Announcements and Introductions:**

- Welcome to Roland Blair, Swap Shop coordinator

**UPDATES & NEWS**

**Transfer Station / Recycling Center:** Mike sent an email update. Plastic nip bottles can officially go into the plastic recycling bins. Preferable to take the metal caps off. Seaside Liquors has been collecting nip bottles and will be glad to hear that they can now be recycled

**Swap Shop / Opening & Spring Expo plans, funding request (see attachment 1):** Roland heard the town will build it themselves. He doubts that it will be built by June 8, 2024 and feels that it is more likely to be completed by the fall. Roland suggests we still go ahead with the Spring Expo on June 8 (rain date June 15) - he will coordinate some live music, and it will be a good time to do something educational in addition to the tribute to Lenny Federico and Dick Elkin solar field. Lydia drafted a *Use of Town Property* form for the select board to approve in advance.

Lydia shared attachment 1 with a suggested itinerary for the Spring Expo. See comments and revisions to the plans in bold italics directly on attachment 1.

**Mass DEP / Barnstable County:** Kari participated in a successful presentation on February 28, 2024 at the Joint Base Cape Cod on opportunities for a coastal community composting facility on some of the excess parcels of land. Bourne, Sandwich, Falmouth and Mashpee will be directly affected by this. Microgrants will be accepted from April 1 through June 12, 2024.

**Energy & Climate Action Committee liaison:** Carol said the committee is reeling from the death of Dick Elkin in addition to the stepping back of Robert Shapiro and the resignation of David Mead-Fox; all three were experienced leaders of the committee. The committee is looking into naming the transfer station solar array after Dick Elkin. Lisa Sullivan of the MA Department of Energy Resources discussed the Climate Leader program which is an offshoot of the Green Community program. As participants in the program we are obligated to reduce Wellfleet's

greenhouse gas emissions.

## CALENDAR

**MARCH 16 Boomerang Bags** – Wellfleet Library – Saturday 2 to 5 PM

**MARCH 21 Nauset Regional High School Adulting 101 – Thursday 11:30AM to 1:30PM:** Nancy N will attend, Sharon Rule-Agger will bring some boomerang bag kits and a sewing machine. Lydia and Kari will help with materials. Kari will bring the materials to Wellfleet. Nancy has Wellfleet Recycling guides to distribute, and will bring assorted samples of recycling and Swap Shop treasures.

**APRIL TBD Amnesty Day:** Bring a full car-load of waste to the Transfer Station for free disposal. The date has not yet been confirmed

**APRIL 20 Eastham Recycling Committee Forum on silverware:** 10-12 at the Eastham Library.

**APRIL 22 Earth Day: Center for Coastal Studies usually coordinates beach clean-ups:** Nothing explicitly planned for Wellfleet.

**MAY 3 WES Spaghetti Dinner (Zero Waste), date to be confirmed:** Nancy N plans to help.

**JUNE 1 Household Hazardous Waste Day in Wellfleet, 9:00AM to 12:00PM**

**JUNE 8 Spring Expo - Transfer Station, Saturday 9:30AM to 12:30PM, JUNE 15 rain date**

## OUTREACH

**Social Media posts:** Chris W posted on microplastics and water bottles, on the *Five Gyres* movement to use less/buy less/waste less, on the nips bottle take-back program (received 70 comments), on recipes for homemade granola to avoid packaging, on packing material that's easily compostable or recyclable like shredded paper and cardboard, and on the importance of removing stickers from fruit before composting. 860 followers on Instagram.

**Community Classified, The Provincetown Independent, Lydia:** Last blurb was about textile recycling at the Transfer Station. Kari said there are local vendors who take and recycle clothes into rags.

**wellfleet-ma.gov/recycling-committee & wellfleetrecycles.org, Lydia (See Attachment 2):** At the February 26, 2024 Community Forum, mention was made that the town's website is outdated. Lydia and Christine examined the Recycling Committee link on the town's website

and suggested edits in attachment 2. Wherever possible the links go directly to our own Recycling Committee website or to the Transfer Station website. Christine made sure the links are all updated.

**Chamber of Commerce & COA green tips:** Lydia will send the textile recycling tips, and the paint recycling tips for April.

## **WASTE REDUCTION**

**Plastic pollution and Producer Responsibility legislation, MassPIRG:** Carol has three Massachusetts bill numbers - two for the MA House and one for the MA Senate. Producer responsibility makes producers pay for the disposal of their products and wrap. Carol will distribute the information so we can discuss it at the next meeting.

**Nips collection initiative and Mass. Bottle Bill ballot question:** Nancy G said we've covered nips collection. Julie and Alan have gotten many calls from around the Cape and off Cape about bringing their nip bottles to them. Nancy G summarized the proposed bottle bill being led by Decker of Cambridge and Senator Creame. The MA Senate has favorably reported out on the bottle bill, but the House will be reporting on April 7. If it goes forward it will go into a larger bill July 31, if not, it will be open to more changes. Decker said they can deal with some edits, but only smaller edits or it will risk being thrown out. They are open to hearing more from us, but it is at the end of the process for 2024. Lydia said letters of support are good anytime because these bills take years to pass. If there's a hearing there is a deadline. Bill numbers change from year to year so you need to check the Massachusetts legislature to make sure it's the current legislation.

It will be good to reach out to Sarah Peake and the chairperson Boye of that committee. Nancy G has not heard back from Mass PIRG who are supposedly taking a lead, but their website doesn't show much.

**Library of Things updates:** Christine wondered who will help in April organizing and updating the catalog. Jaya, Carol and Nancy N volunteered.

**Refill Stations/Refill Cape Cod updates:** Christine said the DPW is so busy with the Herring River restoration so they have not been able to update us. Christine wants to confirm the budgeted \$20,000 for the town hall water station.

**Reusable Food Containers / Takeout Container Outreach:** Jaya says the smartest things we can do is to reuse the plastic containers we do get. Everything else is very expensive. Christine recently read about a service that buys containers. MV Eats uses stainless containers, but it's a model where you borrow the stainless from the restaurant and return them. It's best for repeat take-out orders, but not for transient vacationers.

**Cork recycling initiative:** Olivia found an east coast company that will accept the corks in fifteen pound minimums by mail, or dropped off in New York.

**Food Rescue notes:** On March 5, 2024 a videographer filmed presentations about food rescue that will go out soon.

## **REPORTS**

**MINUTES:** Christine S made a motion to approve the minutes from Feb 6, 2024 Nancy G seconded the motion and all approved 6-0.

**ACCOUNTING:** Christine said we have about \$700 more in expenses to use before the end of the fiscal year. Lydia made a motion to use \$100 for boomerang bags materials, Jaya seconded the motion and all approved 6-0.

**VACANCIES:** One vacancy for an alternate

**CORRESPONDENCE:** The Recycling Committee will ask the Adopt a Highway group if they want to pick up nips and drop them off at Seaside Liquors.

A Wellfleet resident asked if we will coordinate a Free Wellfleet Day again, like the event in 2021 when the Swap Shop was still closed. This was like a community-wide Freecycle event where a map was created with locations of various items. The items were left at the end of driveways, and the maps were updated as items disappeared.

Laura Ludwig of the Center of Coastal Studies wrote to us to ask if our transfer station accepts construction debris from beach cleanups.

**Next meeting: APRIL 2, 2024**

Meeting adjourned 12:25 PM.

## ATTACHMENT 1

### RC SPRING EXPO 2024

Wellfleet Transfer Station / Recycling Center (TS/RC)

JUNE 8, 2024 from 9:30AM to 12:30PM

Rain date JUNE 15

DRAFTY IDEAS as of 3/1/2024

1. Remembering Lenny Federico at the Recycling Plaza
2. Remembering Dick Elkin at the Solar Array on the capped landfill ***Carol will confirm with the Climate Action Committee***
3. ***Future Home of the Swap Shop with ribbons on the kit!!***with special thanks to Jay Norton/Public Works TS/RC/DPW staff, and Roland Blair Swap Shop Volunteer Coordinator, donors and volunteers.

Friends of the Dump - ***Invite Harriet Korum to be involved in planning***

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- 4.
5. Tour / How-To -- textile recycling, compost drop-off, plastics 101, the metal pile, shell pile, marine debris, manure, etc. Kids' education, Nancy Najmi + RC Members

### SPECIAL PROJECTS

1. Electric Vehicles: Chris, Olivia; [Electric School Bus? Are Nauset Schools getting one of these]
2. Solar Oven, Jaya
3. Cork Collection, Olivia
4. Plant-Based Dining, Carol

5. Plastic-Free tableware, Compostable tableware, Christine
6. ReFill Cape Cod, Google map of Water Bottle Refill Stations on Outer Cape & Falmouth
7. ***Roland will confer with the Maurice's Campground Committee if they would like to bring the model of the campground and information about progress.***

## ACTIVITIES

1. Creative upcycling project (rust-printed textiles) -- Sharon Rule-Agger
2. Bucket loader beanbag toss?
3. Steamroller printmaking, Veggie Crush Art Print?
4. Creating electricity with potatoes?

## POTENTIAL VENDORS / PARTNERS

1. Barnstable County Cooperative Extension --Household Hazardous Waste notes -- (6/1 Wellfleet, Truro 8/3, Provincetown 10/5 – all 9AM to 12 Noon)
2. Barnstable County Cooperative Extension – Love Your Local Water campaign INFO table? And/or 'Protect Our Cape Cod Aquifer' (POCCA), Laura Kelley?
3. Rain barrels? via Association to Preserve Cape Cod?
4. Re-Color Paint: This Hanover Mass. company recycles latex paint collected at Wellfleet TS/RC and statewide. Seasonal: April through October.
5. Compost services: Black Earth Compost -- residential (year-round drop-off) / municipal / commercial food scraps collection. ***See if Mike will ask if they want to attend***
6. Wellfleet Community Garden and Wellfleet Farmers Market . INFO table?
7. Mass Oyster Project oyster and clam shell collection and recycling [free service to over 15 local restaurants] INFO table
8. Center for Coastal Studies -- Marine Debris? INFO table? ***Chris W will contact them.***
9. CARE for the Cape & Islands? INFO table? ***Print out guides for compostable tableware and have samplesSee if the Select Board wants to weigh in***

## **10. Advertise the event**

### **RC AGENDA MARCH 12, 2024 - ATTACHMENT 2**

***Request from Interim Town Administrator Tom Guerino to update committee information on Town website.***

#### **Suggestions:**

1. Recycling Center at Wellfleet Transfer Station
2. Wellfleet RecycleSmartMA recycling guide
3. Recyclopedia: Can I recycle it? (RecycleSmartMA website)
4. Library of Things (Zero Waste Events)
5. Wellfleet Plastic Reduction Bylaws
6. Mass Oyster Project - Commercial Shell Recycling
7. Refill Cape Cod google map (water bottle refill locations)
8. Swap Shop volunteers - email [wellfleetswapshop@gmail.com](mailto:wellfleetswapshop@gmail.com)
9. More at [wellfleetrecycles.org](http://wellfleetrecycles.org) and wellfleetrecycles on instagram
10. Plastic Pollution is a Whale of a Problem poster in PDF attachment
11. Composting (residential) Link to TS/RC page on 'Food Waste'
12. Composting (Commercial) Link to Black Earth Compost?
13. Annual Events, volunteers needed! Boat shrink wrap recycling, Road Race water station helpers, Coast Sweep (Massachusetts-wide), etc.