

WELLFLEET RECYCLING COMMITTEE (RC)
Minutes for February 6, 2024
Virtual Zoom Meeting, Recorded

Present: Christine Shreves, Lydia Vivante, Olivia Kraus, Nancy Najmi, Nancy Gralla, Carol Magenau (Alternate)

Others Present: Alan Kogos (Seaside Liquors, South Wellfleet), Lee Bartell (Eastham Recycling Committee)

Lydia Vivante called the meeting to order at 11:03.

Announcements and Introductions:

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

UPDATES & NEWS

Wellfleet Annual Town Report: Thanks to Nancy N and Christine S for their help in preparing the Recycling Committee annual report.

Transfer Station: Mike Cicale has ordered equipment for tin separation. Right now we pay to dispose of commingled plastic, tin and aluminum. It makes sense to separate the tin from the plastic because it has value. Once this is in place Chris W will post on Instagram.

Swap Shop / Opening & Spring Expo plans: The new building kit for the Swap Shop is arriving very soon. Mike Cicale suggested either June 8 or 15 for the Spring Expo/Swap Shop opening, as there will be many people in town at that time. We'll check with Roland Blair (Swap Shop coordinator) about those dates. Mike will check with Black Earth Composting for their availability, Chris W will bring her electric car, Olivia will bring her electric plug-in hybrid car and her electric leaf blower to demonstrate at the Expo. Once the date for the Expo is confirmed, we'll create a subcommittee to plan the event.

The Swap Shop staff asked us what to do with cork. Beth Brehmer used to collect it and take it somewhere. Olivia will investigate whether Penny's in Ptown still accepts cork, and if so, Lydia volunteered to deliver the cork to Penny's. Carol suggested the elementary school might take it for projects.

Energy & Climate Action Committee liaison: Carol had been working with the Cape Cod Commission to develop their action plan, but with the resignation of the Wellfleet Town Administrator that is on hold. Carol's restaurant contact project is also on hold. Nancy G has scheduled a meeting with Jay Norton to discuss climate infrastructure issues.

Seaside Liquors: Alan is getting word out by mouth that the Wellfleet liquor stores are taking the nip bottles back. They will give 10 cents back for every nip bottle returned, regardless of where it came from. They are creating coupons and info sheets that will be visible on their counters with slogans to make the effort exciting and to spread the word. Examples: "Save the trash, return for cash", "Nip it good", "10 cents away", "Cheers to responsible sipping", etc. They want to emphasize that returning the bottles not only gives cash but also helps the environment. Alan is working with Anika Coomly from Grow Partners to put together some community clean-ups and will have more information later. The first clean up is likely to happen in the fall. Containers outside the store to collect empty nip bottles will happen in the summer or fall. Alan is looking to post on facebook and will do a newspaper interview. Lydia reminded Alan that he might want to refer to the program as a nip bottle "take back" rather than "redemption". Lydia also suggested he ask distributors if they could take the bottles back and Alan said they're not going to do that. Seaside Liquors will hold onto the nips bottles until there is a recycling option. Christine S reminded Alan not to use the word recycling for the nips as they are not currently recycled.

Lee Bartell said that Eastham separates their recycling by glass colors, while Wellfleet accepts mixed color glass with no caps or corks. Lee is not aware of how nips bottles are dealt with.

OUTREACH

Community Classified: Lydia wrote about the FixIt Clinic (community repair activity) in the last Provincetown Independent classified. In March Eastham will post about the planned forum on reusable cutlery/silverware for April 17, 2024 at the library with restaurant owners and environmentalists.

WASTE REDUCTION

- a) **Plastic pollution and Producer Responsibility legislation, MassPIRG:** Carol looked at a bill in the Massachusetts House that was revised on January 18, 2024 and was referred to the House Ways and Means committee. Carol asked if the Recycling Committee ever lobbies on behalf of environmental bills. Carol will write a personal letter to support the bill for now, and then will bring more info back to the RC in case we want to support it as a group.
- b) **Nips collection initiative and Mass. Bottle Bill ballot question:** Nancy G sent a summary of the new bill to the RC. The bill would increase bottle deposits from \$0.05 to \$0.10 and would expand the types of bottles to include juice, wine, etc. It would require stores over 2000 sq ft to accept bottles back for the bottles they sold. It is hard to tell who is supporting the bills. Wondering to what degree do we follow this - do we just stay informed, or are we going to get more deeply involved. Waste management companies are concerned about the changing economics of adding any bottle bills. Local governments are supportive as it will reduce the amount of trash each town will have to process. Nancy G will write a summary of our planned next steps in this matter. The Attorney General's site did not include this ballot question so it must not have gotten the required signatures.
- c) **Adopt a Highway, Briar Lane to Truro town line:** Nancy G wonders if we want to encourage any groups to take this, or leave it. Wellfleet Conservation Trust and Wellfleet Community Forum cover the rest of route 6. Maybe we simply post that a group is needed to adopt that segment. It's a MASS Dept. of Transportation program.
- d) **Library of Things updates:** Christine S said no requests for loans lately. We need to do an inventory in March. Take a picture of all the materials and stuff on the racks.
- e) **Water Fountains / Refill Stations:** The marina has still not completely installed the water station that was purchased with RC gift fund sponsorship in 2018 (from Nauset Disposal). We will put up a sign acknowledging the sponsorship when it is finally installed.. Another RC gift fund sponsorship from SPAT (now Wellfleet Oyster Alliance) for \$2000 is allocated for a refill station at town hall. Not sure how we will deal with the fact that the town is funding the Town Hall refill station and we have some gift money for that same equipment.

f) **Reduce Aquaculture Plastics:** Lydia sent a CAI radio article / interview about the ropeless lobster traps that send signals for location. Lee said lobstermen are loath to use these ropeless traps. Very slow progress is being made on the adoption of ropeless fishing.

CALENDAR

Boomerang Bags – Wellfleet Library – February 18 ~~28~~ from 2-5 pm [Late correction FEB 18 – not 28]

REPORTS

MINUTES & ACCOUNTING / VACANCIES / CORRESPONDENCE: Christine S moved we approve the December 5, 2023 and January 2, 2024 minutes; Olivia seconded, and all approved 5-0. Christine S shared the accounting report. We need to determine what to do with donated money for the town hall water station, since it is already covered in the DPW budget. There is \$500 in our account given for a water station at the library as well. Christine S will send around the information about disposable food ware that has been updated.

Next meeting: **MARCH 12, 2024** (March 5 is the Massachusetts Presidential Primary)

Meeting adjourned 11:52 AM.