

Eastport Recycling Committee Minutes
Wednesday January 24, 2024
6-7 p.m.
Shead High School

Present: Samra Kuseybi, Lora Whelan, Beth Clifford, Pat Christopher, Becca and Chip Hammond, Will Lopez

Minutes taker: Will

Meeting called to order at 6pm by Lora

Members present:

Lora Whelan, co-chair
Samra Kuseybi, co-chair
Pat Christopher
Will Lopez, secretary
Chip Hammond
Becca Hammond
Beth Clifford

Appointments:

Motion to appoint Lora Whelan and Samra Kuseybi as co-chairs for one year made by Beth Clifford, Pat Christopher, second. Unanimous.

Motion to appoint Will Lopez as secretary for one year made by Samra Kuseybi, second by Beth Clifford. Unanimous.

Motion for approval of August 2023 meeting minutes be approved made by Beth Clifford, second Pat Christopher. Unanimous.

Meeting Business:

Lora reports Request for Fee Proposals (RFPs) to be submitted to City Council during February 14, 2024 meeting for approval.

Discussion of the bailer located at Guilford Mill site.

Eastport Recycling baler is still located at the former recycling site, Guilford Mill. Lora reports Howie Johnson of the Eastport Public Works, was approved by the city council to use up to 8 hours of his work time to the Eastport Recycling Committee to get the bailer moved to the new site and test for operations. Additionally, Tom Critchley of the Eastport Fire Department has offered to help as well.

Lora adds that the schedule of repairs of the new recycling site must be determined prior to moving the bailer. This includes the development of a plan to remove the current contents of the site which the City Council will be responsible for.

Samra reports communication with Mark King of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) regarding paperwork for grant funds awarded to Eastport Recycling. Once city manager signs paperwork the DEP will send Eastport Recycling an invoice for awarded funds which would give Eastport Recycling the go ahead to start issuing RFPs. It is anticipated that funds may be available as early as the end of February or March. A progress report outlining the use of funds will be due every six months to the MDEP.

City Council will be responsible for awarding RFPs.

The former recycling site, the Guilford Mill, needs to be cleaned out. This includes removing the bailer and remaining fluorescent light bulbs. The e-waste located the former recycling site has been removed. Lora proposes the recycling committee schedule dates for cleanup of the former recycling site. Dates to be determined.

Pat reports on other opportunities for recycling, most notably a company called Nex Trex, who accepts soft plastics or stretchable plastics like plastic produce bags, bubble wrap or cereal box lining. Hannaford's in Machias is a collection site for Nex Trek recyclables, plastics would be collected and then hand delivered to Hannaford's. A scale would be needed to track quantity of collected plastic. Pat also reports that batteries can be taken to Johnson's Tru Value in Calais for recycling. Pat will research sites, including Eastport schools and Eastport IGA Supermarket as possible sites for soft plastic recycling bins.

Recommendation to develop program to provide returnables recycling bins at Eastport events and festivals.

Suggested time for next meeting is end of February or beginning March.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm by Lora

Minutes submitted by: Will