

**Mid-Coast Waste Watch**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 27, 2017**

**Attendance:** Josh Gerritsen, Anna Sideris, Maggie Timmermann, Beth Kwiatkowski, Marci Annis Casas, Jim Guerra, David Edwards, Alison McKellar

**Absent Members:**

**Swap Shop:** Gerritsen opened discussion on the Swap Shop. A discussion on setting an ongoing schedule was held and those members who have been working at the Swap Shop discussed their experiences. The 15 minute parking policy is going well but a review of where volunteer's park was held and changes will begin in May.

A discussion was held on designing a reference list handout for items not deemed appropriate for the swap shop so they can be diverted to a source that can use them. Sideris and McKellar talked about how hard it is to make a cursory view of dropped items and say "no" when they are dropped off if they don't fit criteria. Gerritsen added that education needs to be provided to the public on what is considered usable/reusable items with life left in them; especially with clothing and items containing pieces like puzzles. Guerra felt that the transition to a receiving area for goods to be dropped at would go a long way to improving the meet, greet and engaging of the public to bring better items to the shop.

Guerra also announced that Cindy Eisenhower is interested in coming to speak to the WWC. Kwiatkowski suggested that a more inclusive event be planned where other area "reuse" shops that might also be interested in her message would be invited. This would help introduce the WWC to the community and meet an education goal and if it goes well perhaps begin an annual networking event planned by the committee.

Casas discussed the suggestion from Darlene that cleaning trash from behind the shop was needed. The committee volunteers planned to meet with Guerra on Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup> from 1-5 as available to work on the trash clean up.

Annis and Gerritsen went to the St. George swap shop and provided feedback on the visit.

Casas asked about the status for the donation box to be placed at the swap shop. Guerra will check on it.

A brief discussion on items being picked over during a shift was held and solutions are being considered. Guerra decided an update to the lock and key for the shop needed to take place where the key will be picked up and dropped off at the gatehouse on days of operation.

In order to use the metal building Guerra is contacting CMP and our electrician to work on an electrical concern as it is a concern; that repair could take up to a month. Guerra is working with staff to clean out the building. McKellar opened a discussion on acquiring a temporary shelter until the metal building area was made available. Edwards was agreeable that this would be a good temporary solution. Guerra was unable to fund the change currently and McKellar suggested renting or constructing one or looking for a donation which she will follow up on.

A group discussion was held on how to utilize people from the survey interested in helping at the swap shop. Guerra will email or contact them by phone and invite them to the meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup> where they can be introduced to the work done by the committee to date.

**Survey Results:** McKellar spoke about her presentation to the MCSWC Board of Directors on the survey results. Rick Bates asked for more input for setting goals and decision making from the results be brought back to the Board. The Board was collectively impressed with the results and appreciative of the work done by Alison and the Committee to reach so many people in our four communities. Don White asked when a better program for salvaging wood from the landfill would be considered. Tom Ford is putting together a meeting on the formation of goals for next year in June and was supportive of working with the WWC to help set some of these. Gerritsen felt it was a good time to have conversations and make recommendations that will have an impact on the facility redesign. McKellar asked about getting the survey out to the public and ideas were discussed including how best to use the website, setting up a blog to allow a continued conversation from those interested in the data.

**MRRRA Conference:** David Edwards provided feedback on the seminars he attended at the conference and he will be writing an article on his experience. Overall he felt that the MRRRA might want to gear information to be more appropriate for use in small towns and rural areas of Maine and not depict so heavily on work being done by larger organizations and cities.

The exeter-agri energy presentation was very good as was one given by a small local farmer working with ski resorts to compost food waste. Gerritsen, Edwards and Kwiatkowski thought that MCSW could consider food diversion that might work within the space we have.

McKellar spoke about the plastics seminar she attended and felt she received the message that some pilots spent a lot of time with programs that provide feedback to customers to in order to promote good recycling or educate on improved methods when done poorly, but at some point people who don't do it "well" would be better to not do it at all because of the overall contamination and expense those performing poorly cause to the end product.

A lengthy discussion was held on the current status of plastic recycling at MCSW and how best to communicate changes to the citizens that use the facility when there is a shift in what materials are needed. McKellar spoke about transfer station visits in the area and how she viewed their treatment of the public with regard to plastic recycling and asked if better networking could be done move plastic loads. Kwiatkowski will check in with MRRRA for an update on the types of plastic trending for resale now and update next week.

**Non-Agenda Items:** A discussion on the way MCSWC handles glass recycling was held. Jim agreed to update the signs so that there is no need to separate colored out.

**NEXT MEETING:**

May 4, 2017

12:30 PM

Richardson Room – Rockport Town Office