

Mid-Coast Waste Watch
Meeting Minutes
May 4, 2017

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

Absent Members: Maggie Timmermann

Tom Ford: The Committee members that were present learned of the unexpected passing of Tom Ford at the beginning of the meeting. Tom was very interested in the formation of the Waste Watch Committee and had been a helpful to get the Committee approved by the Board of Directors as part of a set of goals developed since he had joined the Board of the Corporation. His support and friendly encouragement will be sorely missed.

Swap Shop: Gerritsen opened discussion on the Swap Shop. A discussion on the proposed clean up scheduled for Sunday May 21st from 1-5 as volunteers are available to work during that time. The work is to do some light clean up around the Swap Shop area. People should bring their own rakes and tools and be prepared for bugs by then!

Guerra will be using the survey volunteer list to contact people who were interested in helping with the Swap Shop and invite them to the meeting on the 11th.

Guerra will meet with the electrician next week to look over the metal building to secure the electric issues there. He will report back on that meeting when information is available.

A discussion on numerous visits to the facility by “regular” swap shop and metal perusing citizens was held. Guerra volunteered to watch for the activity and speak in general terms to the people that are known to the group and facility about taking metal that is part of our facility funds to cover sheetrock being kept out of the landfill.

Josh mentioned that packing materials are readily available at the swap shop for people to reuse and if larger quantities are needed he inquired if they could take from other sources. Guerra and Kwiatkowski suggested anyone looking should contact the office so people do not walk into the recycling building unattended.

MRRR Conference: David Edwards gave members a copy of his article providing information on the MRRR Conference. Those present were appreciative of his work and will provide feedback after a thorough read.

Survey Update: McKellar spoke about attending the MCSWC Board of Directors meeting and that the information was well received. McKellar was asked by the Board to put together a report that will help to highlight areas that need to be considered and for the Committee to provide some advice and feedback on what they see rises to the top for topics of discussion. A lengthy discussion on the use of names and leaving the survey information as a transparent document was held. The Committee agreed unanimously that this was now a public document after being presented to the Board of Directors. A second discussion on the best way to pull information and helpful points from the survey for the Committee to work with was held. Guerra feels there is a lot of information that will be used to develop some good educational articles from. Guerra will create a press release to go out to the public before it is made public on social media or the website. A final listing of where the survey can be found (hard copies) will also be decided.

Plastic: Kwiatkowski provided a very general listing from MRRR about the types of plastic that is currently being recycled in Maine. Future discussions will be held on how best to make changes or educate the public about this topic and others such as glass.

Non-Agenda Items:

NEXT MEETING:

May 11, 2017

12:30 PM

Richardson Room – Rockport Town Office