

Mid-Coast Waste Watch
Meeting Minutes
May 25, 2017

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

Absent Members:

Swap Shop: Gerritsen opened discussion on the Swap Shop Volunteer Agreement. A lengthy discussion on the proposed document was held. Marci provided some general feedback on the initial memorandum from Guerra which was written with the intent to open up lines of communication with the current volunteer staff.

The group felt the following should be accomplished with the documents

A cover letter for the Swap Shop Volunteer Agreement (SSVA)

A joint effort is made on clear expectations to be listed in the agreement which will include Information that outlines proposed commitments, actions and responsibilities of both the facility and the volunteers.

Note: A general explanation will be generated for the older established volunteers who will be experiencing change as we move forward, so they understand why there is an agreement to sign now.

Gerritsen asked all members to take time to look at the Google Doc so that suggested edits would be easier and then a final printout can be reviewed at next meeting.

Concerns and inquiries have been brought to the attention of the Committee concerning the possibility that items from the Swap Shop are being sold to local consignment shops in the area.

A discussion on disputes about “acceptable items” and how to engage information at drop off was held. Guerra will provide a written list of acceptable items (and clearly not acceptable items) is needed as a guideline for the volunteers. It was generally felt by the committee that when a new drop off system is set in place this will be an easier task. A brief discussion on the new Recycling Coordinator position was held and the ability to have in-house oversight by an employee more possible when this occurs as well as assistance prioritizing and setting volunteer scheduling and training. A schedule could be placed on the MCSWC website when available.

Edwards asked if it would be possible to mechanically “sweep/brush” the area at the SS because there is a lot of glass on the tar. Guerra can arrange.

Guerra will notify the current volunteers that the parking changes will go into effect now that the better weather is here. Guerra also asked about getting the survey group of volunteers active with the changes.

Guerra is placing a new lock on the Swap Shop and the key will be picked up and dropped off at the gatehouse each shift.

Waste Audit: The scheduling of a waste audit was postponed to the next meeting. It was noted that due to Guerra’s schedule it will be later in the summer than thought and possibly outside the goal of June set earlier this year.

The waste audit was talked about and Guerra recommended that Committee members take time to read the works put together by Travis Blackmer of the UMaine Senator George Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions <https://umaine.edu/mitchellcenter/road-to-solutions/materials-management/>

Composting: Guerra will email other interested parties from the Survey to begin building an interested group for the composting project.

Suggestion Box: At a previous meeting the placement of a suggestion box in the employee break room was held. Guerra has spoken with the employees and reported that they do not want one and he reinforced that his “door is always open”

Donation Box: Gerritsen did not have one as thought to donate, but he will pursue other avenues to see if one can be found. Kwiatkowski wondered if Edwards might build one with diverted wood products! ? Edwards had left the meeting and was not able to comment.

Electronic Signage: Edwards asked if the DPW might have an electric sign that can be programmed to provide information about the facility. Guerra has budgeted for this in the past but has not finalized a purchase. He prefers one that will scroll and be on the front of the Gatehouse so people can see it while in line from their automobiles. He will revisit this in the redesign. Kwiatkowski mentioned that one would be nice to advertise Household Hazardous Waste Day in June.

Metal Building Update: Guerra explained the electrical repairs needed for the metal building before any changes could be made. He is scheduling the work but did not have a date at this time.

Non-Agenda Items: Kwiatkowski spoke to Lissa Bitterman of ecomaine who called to discuss an invitation that was going out to the Committee and all four towns Selectman with information about an annual open house that ecomaine does each year. Kwiatkowski asked that people respond to her inquiry about addresses and RSVP if they would like to attend.

NEXT MEETING:

June 1, 2017 12:30 PM Richardson Room – Rockport Town Office