



Town of Harpswell

P.O. Box 39

Harpswell, ME 04079

Recycling Committee Agenda

February 22, 2023 at 4:00 pm

Harpswell Town Office

Members: ✓Chuck Perow, ✓George Barker, ✓Philip Conner, ✓Jack Stokinger, ✓Bob Eaton, Marge Webster Warren, ✓Gina Snyder

Meeting called to order: 4:04

Minutes from 18 Jan 2023 meeting were approved.

We had a very good discussion on the proposed Extended Producer Responsibility program currently being crafted by the state. We decided to write a letter commenting on our thoughts and concerns about it.

We talked about the fact that this concept has been implemented in Europe and Canada for years and are curious why there is not more emphasis on learning what is working and is not working for them. Maybe this is happening, but we are not aware of it.

From what we can gather, the EPR models that are currently being used, generally charge very little per item for the EPR even though the aggregate cost of disposing or recycling is significant for communities and municipalities. There is simply a huge number of items.

We are concerned that it appears that the program is going to be extremely complex and therefore cumbersome and expensive to administer. We agreed that **simplicity** is key to the success of the program.

We suggest that the program be designed with simplicity paramount. Rather than try to differentiate charges precisely item by item, consider broad categories of items and assign flat fees to all contributors to the problem. Minimize or eliminate exceptions.

Gina & George will write a draft letter and circulate it to the committee and we will refine it and send it to the state committee.

Gina will also draft an information article based on previous information to the Anchor about the upcoming John Gilliam Day event on April 22 so that it appears in the April Anchor.

We decided to contact Mary Ann Naph and Dave Chipman about organizing for the John Gilliam Day event.

Old Business: none

Next Meeting: 15Mar2023

Meeting Adjourned 4:40

Respectfully submitted

Philip Conner
Chair