

Recycling and Renewable Energy Committee Meeting  
October 19, 2016

Meeting called to order at 10:10am. Members present: Lydia Hamnquist, Elise Cozzi, Jen Rumpza, Laura Ludwig

- Laura moved to approve 9/7 minutes; Elise seconded and all were in favor of approving the minutes as written.

- Lydia reported on the CVEC meeting of 9/15/16 at the Barnstable County Courthouse. Austin Brandt of Cape Light Compact was in attendance. The agenda was long and comprehensive. Discussed plastic bags even though that was not part of the agenda; CVEC supports efforts to impose bag bans. Net metering credits were discussed; Provincetown has very few credits and someone suggested we be removed from the distribution list, since we have so few to offer. That suggestion was quickly dismissed, as the credits reflect our small size. Deb Albenburg will attend the next meeting in November.

- Charter Commission has contacted RREC so that we can be included in the revised town charter. Lydia responded to their letter with the information provided on our website, and invited the representative to come to an RREC meeting.

- Provincetown 400 plans. We would like to have all of the CABP trash cans completed by then. We also want to see that recycling takes place at all town events, or events which happen on town property (wharf, Bas Relief, schools, etc.). Lydia has been told by the harbormaster that one reason there are few receptacles on the wharf is because they often blow over. However, the new bins are the same as trash bins, so that should not be an issue any longer. Elise will bring up this issue at the next Harbor Committee meeting. Laura suggested linking up with the Plymouth recycling committee, since they just successfully banned plastic bags, about a joint theme of "Pilgrims would have hated Plastic Bags...So we banned them" (or some such thing).

- Electric car charger usage - Lydia requested from the MIS department the stats on electric charging sessions. From January - September, the stations were used nearly 400 times. The town may lose a small amount of parking revenue from these visitors (1/2 price parking fees after a full charge, and no fee for charging time), but by offering the stations we are likely drawing new people to town.

- School Committee meeting - Lydia was invited by the superintendent to the last school committee meeting to discuss water bottle filling stations. She and Eric Larsen toured the school to see how many bubblers were in place already (20+). Beth Singer is interested in providing reusable water bottles to all students, and replacing a few of the bubblers with filling stations. Laura suggested that she speak to the Nauset HS principal to find out about cost and funding, as they had two stations installed recently. The Provincetown School has initiated a GoFundMe campaign to raise money for the bottle filling stations. We will share it on our Facebook page.

- Bottle filling stations - we had asked DPW to make signs for both stations, as there are still a lot of folks who do not know about them; but we have \$500 from VSB for signage for them, so we will ask an independent sign maker to give us an estimate (<\$500) for two signs. Lydia will talk to Be Exclusive (who makes our cloth bags) for a possible contact; and Jen will talk to a couple of artists. Lydia has talked to the Chamber about installing a filling station near their office, between the restrooms and the office. The Chamber said they would be willing to put some funding toward that. It might be good to join forces with another committee who would support the installation of a filling station near the bubbler in front of Town Hall. Laura will ask Bill Docker to come to our next meeting.

- Plastic bags/Styrofoam - SKIP (soup kitchen) has been using polystyrene containers. Lydia spoke to them about using reusable take-out containers, and they would consider it if they were affordable. We will collectively make a list of places we find that are using them, and work with the licensing rep (Nikolai) on a hand-out for those businesses, as we have done for businesses who continue to hand out plastic bags. Lydia will speak w/ David Gardner about the use of gentle enforcement next season for plastic bags, perhaps visiting the stores with an officer in tow.

- New member - Lydia reported that Maureen Travis asked about becoming a new member. We will invite her to the next meeting.

- New Business:

Business Recycling - Jen suggested we invite the new Health Inspector (Laura Marin) to a meeting to learn about what the current inspections involve and whether it would be possible to incorporate a recycling question. (Morgan Clarke was out for 3 months on maternity leave and is back now.) Elise made a motion to invite Laura M (health inspector) and Aaron Hobart (licensing agent) to a meeting to discuss recycling and take-out container issues. Jen seconded and all were in favor. Lydia will invite them to our next meeting. Laura handed out info on the CDP Green Business program, which could provide a workshop for Provincetown businesses. Lydia will contact them to see if they can do that next spring.

Wharf Lights - Elise noted the new wharf (Fishermen's Wharf) installed two bright parking lot lights and wondered if they have hoods to prevent light pollution (Dark Sky City commitment). Lydia has been tracking lights in town which haven't yet installed LEDs or the backstops, and will mention these to Eric as well.

Laura moved to adjourn. Lydia seconded and all were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 11:48am.