

Minutes of the Recycling & Renewable Energy Committee Meeting held on Tuesday,  
November 1, 2016  
Community Development Conference Room, Town Hall

Members present: Lydia Hamnquist, Elise Cozzi, Laura Ludwig, Jen Rumpza, Maureen Travis (to be sworn in); Eric Larsen and Deb Albenberg, staff; Julia Perry, Provincetown Charter Commission.

Meeting called to order at 10am.

Elise moved to approve the minutes from 10/19/16. Lydia seconded and all were in favor.

New member Maureen Travis was in attendance. Lydia moved that she be approved as a new regular member. Laura seconded and all were in favor. Maureen will be sworn in today. She will be out of town January-March but can Skype in. We will check with Doug to find out whether she can participate in votes taken.

Deb said that she would attend the November meeting of CVEC (Cape and Vineyard Electric Co-op). Eric reviewed the status of the solar panels which were purchased by CVEC, which joins us with a pool of Cape-based electricity. Additional solar panels will be installed at various buildings in town soon, depending on CVEC's schedule.

Plastic bag by-law enforcement - Lydia asked Laura Marin about enforcing the regulation. The Board of Health is the department responsible for establishing fee structures for both recycling compliance and plastic bag distribution. The Health agent would issue a "cease-and-desist" type warning. The fee structure was established in the by-law. The police department would need to get involved after the 3rd warning. Lydia will ask Annie Howard about adding a single item to her inspection checklist. There are two town forums in November (in lieu of a special town meeting) where we could discuss a more stringent bag law; new bottle filling stations with respect to additional funding; and a voluntary reduction of polystyrene take-out containers. Eric will talk to Rich Waldo regarding an opportunity for us to present these at the forum.

Town meeting warrant - Elise moved that we amend the existing town by-law to increase the thickness to 3.5 mils, in anticipation of the state adopting a bag ban of 2.25 mils. Lydia suggested presenting 3.5 mils as the target thickness, and if there is push-back on the town hall floor we could come back before the town with the 2.25 mil wording. It may assist with enforcement to have a thicker limit. Eric suggested waiting until after we discuss the issue at the public forum.

Bottle filling stations - Eric reported there will be a new unit installed at the VMCC. Lydia has talked to the Chamber and they are interested in helping pay for one at the public restrooms. Eric needs to walk thru the site there to provide an estimate and can take a look at it today. Several school and summer programs currently distribute single-use water bottles, so we will continue to educate about transitioning to personal-use refillable water bottles. Eric discussed ideas of installing a bottle filling station in the main foyer of Town Hall. Laura suggested we use the existing logo that was designed by Andrea Tasha (remove the word 'bag') for aluminum water bottles. Lydia will talk to

the school administration about joining together for promoting the bottles. Jen will be looking into signage for the existing stations.

Town Charter - Julia Perry of the Charter Commission joined the meeting at 10:45am. The CC is working on a revised charter and are reaching out to all the committees for input. The RREC was not included in the existing charter and has evolved since 1990. Lydia sent her the language on the town website. Jen moved that we use the language from our Facebook page for use by the charter, which is a bit longer and more descriptive. Lydia seconded and all were in favor. Laura forwarded the language from our Facebook page.

Julia had a few questions for us. She asked if we were organized by the BOS or by Town Meeting. None of the existing members knew the answer so we directed her to ask Amy Germain. She then asked if there were any state policies we help to administer. Eric reported that there are state mandates regarding recycling, Green Community and bag bans. The charter may reference any state policies which committees are obliged to facilitate. We are most likely categorized as an "advisory committee". Julia's final question was about funding and where it comes from. We have a small town budget (\$2500) and also solicit funds through grant opportunities (VSB, Mass Cultural Council, e.g.). DPW also provides some funds depending on the situation.

Julia commented that she had just learned a lot about this committee that she did not know, and she recommended that this committee present a one- or two-hour public forum to discuss all that we do. Jen suggested we do a PTV video for our Facebook page or for the Community Page. We definitely will do a public campaign regarding the bottle filling stations.

#### New Business -

1. petition the National Park Service to allow the town to put solar panels on the landfill.
2. Town needs a new trash hauler (trailer); DPW will request it at Spring town meeting to have it before peak season.
3. November 15 is America Recycles Day. Lydia reserved the Fire Station and we will all help (wo)man the booth. Stock the tables with RREC brochures, cloth bags, petition for banning polystyrene.

Next meeting: Elise suggested meeting at the Fire Station, as that is town property. We will post the meeting for 1pm on Tuesday, Nov. 15th, weather permitting. We will reserve the CDC room as a backup.

Elise moved to adjourn; Lydia seconded and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 11:55am.