

Recycling and Renewable Energy Committee

Minutes from 12 March, 2013 at 1pm Caucus Hall, Provincetown Town Hall

The Chairperson Lydia Hamnquist called the meeting to order at 1pm
Members present: Kaolin Davis, Elise Cozzi, Carla Anderson.
Excused absent: Laura Ludwig.
Staff Present: David Gardiner, Rich Waldo

Each member of the committee shared his or her “take away” on the Year-Rounder’s festival. Overall the members felt there is support in the community for the best methods of responsible handling of trash and recycling. However, it is apparent that a lot of education is required. Members also said they got positive feedback on the question of outlawing plastic bags.

Each member of the committee shared their “take away” from the 3/11 meeting with the BOS. Several committee members expressed surprise and concern that David Quinn’s entire presentation was about P-A-Y-T, as they had expected him to speak about the broad solid waste issues. However, generally, the committee felt that the members of the BOS showed a genuine interest in resolving the solid waste contract increases in the best way possible for the Town and that they would be open to the recommendations of the board.

We moved forward in the ongoing discussion, with Rich Waldo, about the “available options” for reducing the cost increase expected by the new solid waste contract. Several ideas were brought up and the concerns associated with each were touched upon.

We realized the Town does not have the data accessible to properly evaluate various alternatives. Based on this the RREC requested Staff to create a way to measure the volumes of trash create buy various user groups.

Specifically, we need to know the approximate volume (by tonnage and percentage of overall tonnage) that is collected from:

Curbside collection – residents and guesthouse/rental properties.

Townwide Third Barrel – the barrels along the street and the Town offices.

Commercial Haulers – private businesses that use the transfer station.

Rich said that during the winter months both curbside and third barrel are collected together. He has no way to calculate how much of each occurs. He will be able to put a system in place to measure this during the summer months when the collection happens separately. He will have to use “averages” to estimate the tonnage on a weekly basis.

Kaolin Davis had to leave at 2 p.m.

The committee set the agenda for the next meeting as:
Continue discussion with Rich about solid waste, using more specifics about the pros and cons of each option.

In-depth discussion about improving community education about Recycling.

The committee feels that if people choose to recycle more, then the solid waste volume will decrease. David Quinn's presentation stated as much as 74% decrease in Solid Waste "can" happen. The committee would like to create as much of this change prior to the possibility of implementing P-A-Y-T, and feels that better education/information will help.

The next meeting will be March 26 at 11 a.m.

Motion to adjourn by Carla Anderson

Second by Elise Cozzi

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30