

Recycling and Renewable Energy Committee

Minutes from 26 March, 2013 at 11am

Caucus Hall, Provincetown Town Hall

Attending: Carla Anderson, Elise Cozzi, Kaolin Davis, Lydia Hamnquist, Laura Ludwig (members); David Gardner, Rich Waldo (staff)

Meeting was called to order at 11am. Elise motioned to approve minutes from March 7th; 11th; and 12th -- Kaolin seconded and vote was unanimous. Reviewed Carla's Education worksheet, as we need to determine what happens before the BOS meeting in May. Carla handed out the 1st Draft of the Timeline for the next 5-6 weeks. Item #5 (Public Meeting) was discussed -- agreed that it should be held during the evening in the latter half of April, as a forum for questions and concerns. How to get the word out about it -- the Provincetown Community Page on Facebook has been used successfully to get our survey out, and feedback is coming in regarding the plastic bag ban, the PAYT survey, LED lights and other recycling concerns. Need to work with Ptown Business Guild and the Chamber to engage business community. Lydia asked David if we could access the town's list of businesses to communicate our desire for a meeting (as per the timeline). David replied that the info is publicly available but many contacts do not provide email addresses. He will provide us that list. (Done as of 3/27 per LH email) Two meetings were arranged, both at 3pm at Town Hall: Weds 4/17 for coffee shop businesses; and Mon 4/22 for property managers/hotels. The purpose of the meetings would be to ask businesses about their waste/recycling efforts, and whether they would be willing to educate their customers and/or change their practices/offers to help reduce the amount of waste generated throughout the summer. We also want to inform them of the impending contract expiration for waste providers, and that BOS is instructing us to make a recommendation moving forward. Carla offered to draft language for the invitation, and Lydia will advertise it in the paper after confirming the meeting space is available. Regarding the PAYT survey, Carla has been checking the results: fewer than 50 responses have come in to date. Laura will use the log-in information to check the site while Carla is away. Lydia made a poster with the Survey-Monkey information that she will post locally, and she has worked w/ Beau Jackett to get the survey linked to the RREC town web page. Reviewed Carla's Solid Waste worksheet regarding the "available options" for reducing the cost increase expected by the new solid waste contract. Continued discussion with Rich about solid waste, using more specifics about the pros and cons of each option. - Commercial haulers are expecting an increase in dumping fees with a new contract. Rich contends that the town would save money by purchasing a truck and containers, a \$120k package (including personnel) that would be paid off after 1.5 years of existing budget. - Carla suggested (and David/Rich supported) the town hiring two "kids" (students) to go through the town trash barrels to pull out recycling, in order to identify problem areas. Laura offered to investigate funding sources and advertising avenues for this possibility. 70% of residents are not year-round. Rich suggested that an increase of \$20/yr might cover costs of waste and recycling increases. - At the request of RREC, Staff provided data to help evaluate the various alternatives and to create a way to measure the volumes of trash create buy various user groups. Rich provided the approximate volume (by tonnage and percentage of overall tonnage) that is collected from: - "Packer Trucks" -- Curbside trash collection - Townwide Barrels -- the barrels along the street and the Town offices, data from summer 2012 which also includes the beach raking results - List of residents and guesthouse/rental properties serviced by the town. He doesn't have figures in Recycling, and he may recommend a shift in protocols at DPW to better track it. We still need information regarding the number of Commercial Haulers -- private businesses that use the transfer station -- their tonnage and who they service. Lydia informed the committee that there is language in the town by-laws that limits the number of recycling bins allowed per household. This limit needs to be removed, to encourage more recycling. The thinking is if people choose to recycle more, then the solid waste volume will decrease. Laura confirmed the equation with Rich: Less Solid Waste + More Recycling = \$SAVINGS\$ for the town Set the next meeting time/date/agenda: Agenda for Wednesday, 10 April 2013 at 10am Caucus Hall, Provincetown Town Hall - Narrow down the Solid Waste options to a "short list" for DPW - Discuss Education worksheet generated by Carla and amended/added to by others - Approve minutes - Other business Kaolin motioned to adjourn, Elise seconded and vote was unanimous. Meeting was adjourned at 12:20.