

Recycling and Renewable Energy Committee

Minutes from 17 April, 2013 at 3pm Caucus Hall, Provincetown Town Hall

Attending: Carla Anderson, Kaolin Davis, Lydia Hamnquist, Laura Ludwig, Elise Cozzi (members); David Gardner (staff). No public attended.

Meeting was called to order at 3:10pm.

Before we launched into our agenda, Carla moved that RREC send a letter to the town requesting an immediate and indefinite postponement of the LED light installation until committee has time to review all the products and submit a recommendation for suitable alternative LED technology.

Laura seconded the motion.

Discussion followed. David said that is why they did the pilot project, to generate interest and feedback. He agreed that tabling the installation until further research could take place was a good idea. There has been an invitation extended to Kevin Gallagher, ED of CLC, to attend our meetings and inform us as to the technology and process of their installation offer. Instead of inviting him to one of our meetings right now, we could get info from him via email.

David said CLC is meeting on May 3rd to discuss Cape-wide feedback on their LED survey. If one of the RREC members could attend that meeting it would be useful. If Ptown has concerns w/ what we're hearing about the demonstration lights, we ought to be there to represent it. Lydia is going to try to make the meeting.

Laura mentioned that there were over 80 comments to an LED post on the Provincetown Community Space Facebook page. David said we cannot express opinion on Facebook about any issue that is potentially before our committee. Lydia had simply posted the info; Carla and Laura provided info during the thread, which technically broke the "open meeting" law, because it participated in dialogue.

Carla's concern is that if we move forward w/ the project without getting all the information straight ahead of time and giving the spring and summer population to have a chance to view the demo lights, we will cost the town more money in the long run by screaming to have it changed after the fact.

David suggested the language that "prior to any decision made by the BOS on the lights we need to gather more information from the community", therefore recommend to delay the implementation.

The motion was modified -- Carla agreed to re-word the letter so that it requests a delay in commitment until we have the opportunity to have a broader community discussion about it, including inviting the CLC rep to attend a public meeting. It was suggested to double up with the agenda at the May 8 MSW meeting w/ the LED discussion.

Laura seconded the modified motion; all were in favor and motion passed. There was further discussion.

David reminded us of the process, and that the lights are a part of our Green commitment, and referred to an energy reduction plan. We're required to reduce our energy consumption by 20% over 5 years. David will forward a copy of the Energy Plan to the RREC members.

The LED streetlight program has been a three-year process, which when initially proposed by town was too expensive (\$200,000). CLC offered the installation Cape-wide and Ptown accepted. Town put a lot of thought into where the 8 lights would go during the demo process.

Laura asked how we can get the info out to the town via the Banner – David recommended we try to get an article written about Kevin's attendance at the RREC meeting as the centerpiece of the outreach. Carla agreed.

Carla mentioned that the city of Pittsburg went through a distinct process to review their LED options, and recommended that we look at their model. Lydia will email Kevin to attend a public meeting sometime after May 3. Once we know when/if he can come, it would make sense to send out a press release about the meeting (possibly May 8).

Action item: craft a letter from the committee to submit to the Town Manager and BOS. (Laura will draft it from the minutes and send to Carla for approval.)

Action item: draft a press release to send out regarding public opportunity to talk about the LED street lights once meeting w/ Kevin is established, or offer opinion at our email address rrec02657@gmail.com

Moving on to the conversation of solid waste.

Elise noted that there are recycling containers missing from certain locations around town, and David noted the same thing. Many townspeople have also noted their scarceness. It was suggested that after the roads are paved they will be reinstalled.

Laura initiated the conversation about the role of RREC in outreach and education. We need to know what all the facts are about recycling here, and get it out to the public. How? Facebook, Ptown.gov website, library, newspapers, signage, mailings?

Carla reminded us about David Quinn's PAYT stat: as soon as you implement

PAYT, recycling increases as much as 70%. But the question is, how do we increase recycling in our current system so that we can maximize the efficiency?

We looked at the survey monkey results that Laura had distilled and printed out. It brings up many questions and much mis-information.

Carla asked, if we instituted PAYT tomorrow, how would we go about informing the public? Whose responsibility, who does it? David said it's the role of the RREC and BOS. Laura suggested that the town's website be the portal for all recycling info, and our committee should make sure it's accurate and timely.

We agreed as homework to all review the town's recycling website and have that in mind as we move forward w/ MSW and PAYT discussions.

Laura asked how do we generate the comparison between the various Options as discussed in prior meetings. Carla reviewed Options 1&2 as discussed earlier and as outlaid on her worksheet. She recommended that Rich put the numbers together for whatever his ideal would be (purchasing the new truck so town can do our own hauling), and to cost it out over a 5-yr span, not just 1.5 yrs. He needs to have a little more substance to validate his recommendation, such as the many costs involved in maintaining the truck. i.e., "what's it going to cost us for that new truck over five years?" It's one of the valid ways we might be able to cut the costs to the town.

We don't know what the cost increase will be w/ the new contract, but we need to anticipate what the adjustments might be and look at what the taxpayer is going to have to pony up.

RREC doesn't feel comfortable plugging in figures into charts to present to BOS, but we can draft a chart of the options for them.

Carla asked whether we as a committee at this point have a thought about which option to recommend. Elise pointed out that PAYT is for residents, and yet most of the waste is generated by commercial outfits. Discussion ensued about who gets affected and how when PAYT is in place. Weekly renters may abuse the system, e.g.

Carla drew three circles to demonstrate where the cost gets shifted if PAYT were implemented. Commercial waste would not bear any of the burden of the town's waste stream.

Elise suggested that a tax increase be based on number of bedrooms, vs. a percentage of property tax (mil rate). David thought that was an interesting approach and could look into it w/ the water department, who uses the same criteria.

Carla suggested we really need to look at guest house waste – it's a huge contributor to waste stream because they use more than their allotment.

In preparation for our next meeting, we will think about the options and put together a draft presentation at our next meeting. It was agreed that we will leave the survey up thru May 1 in order to present at the May 8 meeting.

Action item – add survey results to May 8 meeting agenda to share with public.

ideas we mused about --

tax increase based on property valuation

tax increase based on number of rooms

tax increase based on intensity of use at the property

licensing fee for guest houses

Laura informed group of the movie “Trashed” which will be aired at Water’s Edge Cinema on 4/22 at 2pm. She will be on the movie discussion panel along with Jessie Mechling.

Discussion about getting the business community to support the reduction of waste. Try to use the avenues of the Chamber and Guild, and perhaps it is a role that Staff should play – Board of Health should during their inspections stress to businesses that the regulations and policies are going to change and they are required to follow them, so it behooves the biz to know what they are.

Action Item -- This committee will provide the fundamental info to BOH for their use in inspections and review of business practices.

Elise moved to approve minutes from 6th -- Laura seconded and all approved.

Set the next meeting time/date/agenda:

Monday, 22 April 2013 at 3:00pm
Caucus Hall, Provincetown Town Hall

- Develop three Option presentations for BOS
- Approve minutes
- Other business

Elise motioned to adjourn, Laura seconded and vote was unanimous.
Meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm.