

Recycling and Renewable Energy Committee

Minutes from 23 May, 2013 at 10am

Caucus Hall, Provincetown Town Hall

Attending: Lydia Hamnquist, Carla Anderson, Laura Ludwig, Elise Cozzi; Rich Waldo, David Gardner (staff); Luke Hinkle from MyGenerationEnergy (solar panel company).

Meeting was called to order at 9:47am by chairperson Lydia Hamnquist with an early three-person quorum; fourth person arrived at 10am. There were no minutes to approve from the last two meetings (April 22 and May 8). Lydia will have them ready for the next meeting.

Carla and Laura revised the earlier version of the recommendation we're proposing to submit to the BOS so that it incorporate suggestions made by Rich, Carla and Lydia. Lydia motioned to approve the final version of the RREC's recommendation to the BOS regarding how to proceed with the MSW contract. Elise seconded the motion and all were in favor. Rich will send a memo to BOS saying he supports the recommendation. We are pleased that it is a simple outline and not a major presentation with slides and graphs and tables.

BOS meeting has been changed from May 28 to June 10, 6pm, at which time RREC will present the recommendations for moving forward with the new SEMASS contract.

New recycling truck has been purchased by DPW. It is being built now and should come on line this summer. It will facilitate lifting heavier/larger barrels, in the event that we eventually do away w/ the small blue bins. As we segue into using the newer truck, we can increase the size of the curbside recycling bins. People are interested in using a trash-sized barrel for recyclables, but not the tall blue recycling bins w/ the square lids. Carla wondered why we need to purchase special recycling bins – can we not use trash barrels with the proper signage? No reason we can't do so. We would need to regulate the label, could be developed by DPW and sold for the consumer to apply to their own barrels. A wrap-around sticker was suggested. The small blue bins will still be usable.

Regarding the June 10 meeting w/ BOS, we need to stress the importance of covering the cost increase for MSW over the tax base and not on a per-bag cost. At an average of \$27/yr increase, it is still a lower cost increase than it would be to buy a PAYT bag at a rate of 1 per week (\$52). The tax increase will be absorbed in the annual tax bills (i.e. it won't be a separate item) and funds will be incorporated into the General Fund.

Rich was pleased that we included language in the recommendation to hire a consultant, which will assist DPW in maximizing the recycling system, and help determine whether we need to change the system over time.

David said that as of July 1 the town will have more money (\$5000 from Tourism fund) to buy new green recycling bins, the small square ones that are paired w/ town trash barrels. Need to confirm that all the existing bins are currently deployed. RREC also has a budget (\$1500 or so) as of July 1 to purchase more recycling bins for town

buildings, e.g. VMCC (where the offices at the Grace Gouveia building will be moving to) and Town Hall.

Laura asked about trash/recycling barrels on the wharf, as the summer season opens and often trash barrels overflow. Rich will make sure the harbormaster has contact info for the barrel crew in case he needs to increase the number of bins on the wharf.

Rich wants to see a new recycling bin at the town playgrounds and basketball courts. The goal is, "Where there's a trash can, there's a recycling bin." David wants that to be conveyed in no uncertain terms to the DPW staff.

We looked at the list of existing town barrels/bins and David is in the process of updating it. Rich will be talking to Tony Lemme, and David encouraged him to make sure that the Lopes Square barrels are open for use; to ensure there are recycling bins there; and to ensure all barrels are out overall. Since we will be ordering more in July, there will be plenty to fill the gaps. Town barrels can be placed on business property if the owner requests it. Technically the businesses should have their own recycling bin, but we want to encourage public use to prevent the bottles from landing in the parking lots and streets.

Rich departed at 10:45 to attend the Disability Commission's "unveiling" of the new access mats on the beach by the Kite shop at the end of Ryder St. Ext.

Composting – David would like the RREC to pick up a demo project again, it was done several years ago (1995?). Elise remembered they got a grant to buy bins. We could discuss it at a future meeting.

New board member – Jennifer Rumpza – she's interested in being on the board but we need to vote to include her on the committee. David retrieved her application. Laura moved to appoint her to our committee; Elise seconded; all approved. The clerk will let Jen know she is now officially on the RREC.

Meetings -- Carla brought up our meeting schedule. Our website says we meet 2x/mo. We agreed that the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays would work.

New bins -- Elise suggested we look at different bin options before July so we can decide where to spend our money. We can look on-line to see what the options are. There is no short list at the town level so we can look at any vendor.

Plastic bags – we will discuss it in earnest on June 18, but we need to look into it in the meantime. David said the new Stop n Shop manager comes in this week, we will make an appointment to talk with him.

Luke Hinkle (MyGenerationEnergy) is in town to talk about solar in Provincetown on WOMR. He agreed to talk to us regarding the program he's interested in pursuing.

Carla advised that he get familiar w/ the Historic District Commission's statutes – he said that his company may need to meet w/ them soon, as more people approach him to install solar. The HDC has guidelines for various things, and are in the process of developing one for solar panels. We want to make sure they are flexible enough to accommodate other alternative energy sources (wind, geothermal, etc.).

There have only been 5 solar installations in Provincetown since 2010, including the Center for Coastal Studies and Elise's house. That is the lowest on the Cape, including Truro, Eastham and Orleans. He suspects that is partly due to the strict HDC guidelines. Also, there are no major installers within an hour's drive, apart from their company (they are in East Dennis). 60% of the structures in Provincetown are within the historic district. Dennis has 75% of theirs in a historic district, but the built environment in Dennis is quite different from ours.

Luke's company is proposing a "Leaf-Tree-Forest" 3-tiered system. "Leafs" (early entrants) (25kw, approx 5 residential systems) would get \$100/kw rebate from the company in addition to any state and federal rebates. Second tier "Trees" would get \$100/kw, and the "Leafs" would get an additional \$100/kw rebate. Once there's a "Forest", another \$100/kw is returned to all. Slope of roof and orientation determine the angle of the panels. Steep pitch is important for winter use. He will be presenting to the public again on June 12 at WOMR at 4pm and 6:30pm. Laura suggested that we list that meeting on our web page, considering we are the RREC. Instead, Lydia will put it on the Provincetown Community Space Facebook page. There is also an RREC Facebook page.

Set the next meeting times/dates/agendas:

Monday, June 10th

5:45pm, meet before BOS mtg

6pm, Board of Selectmen meeting

- present our recommendation re MSW

Tuesday, June 18th 10am

Caucus Hall, Provincetown Town Hall

- Plastic bags

- Approve minutes

- Other business

Laura motioned to adjourn; Lydia seconded and all were in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30am.