

Recycling and Renewable Energy Committee  
Meeting 18 June 2013 at 10am  
Caucus Room, Provincetown Town Hall

Attending: Lydia Hamnquist, Carla Anderson, Laura Ludwig, Elise Cozzi; Rich Waldo, David Gardner (staff). (Jen Rumpza arrived at 10:45.)

Meeting was called to order at 10am by chairperson Lydia Hamnquist.

Minutes from the last meeting (June 10) were approved.

David shared a concept for dual recycling/trash bins which would be too expensive for this budget (July 1) but next year when the town has more money from Tourism fund he would like us to buy them.

Carla thinks the town ought to have kids paint the trash cans.

David said there was a program where barrels were provided free for advertising space; companies would sponsor the cans. The town could have come limited control over content. At the time, the town considered it, since trash cans are expensive. The initiative foundered because the Town was not interested in being that commercial. People do not want ads on trash cans.

By July 1 we should have around 70 recycling bins (28 + 28 + 16), to pair bins with trash cans.

Library does not have a trash can since the remodeling was done; consequently there are coffee cups etc. littering the little sitting wall. Even if there were a trash can there, people still would leave their trash.

Carla brought up the issue of messaging: how do we get the message across that we care about our town? To enlist the day-tripper to clean up after themselves is not easy. We need to make it convenient for them. We already put little postcards around at the coffee shops to alert them about what's recyclable, and all the guest houses too.

Carla asked Rich to make sure there are trash cans at the town landings for the Blessing of the Fleet. The DPW doesn't have any extras, but Lydia said she has two trash cans in front of her shop and only needs one.

People are confused by the compactors at Lopes Square, they think they are composters. They are not clearly marked; signage has faded. DPW will update the markings, maybe by painting the recycling containers green. We are approaching a lot of non-uniformity as we implement new cans and bins for various locations. It's important to make them look consistent. David said that Lopes Square was planned differently; the design of the square incorporated those compactors.

For the upcoming big events (Blessing of the Fleet, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Portuguese Fest) the DPW steps up their schedule for round-the-clock trash/recycling pick-up.

Bulk trash: chairs, couches, mattresses . . . DPW / RREC could sponsor two or three annual drop-off days when everyone brings their bulk items to the transfer station. We would charge for the service. It costs money for us to handle the items, so that cost needs to be transferred to the user. Need to prevent stuff from being thrown on the beach or in the woods. Don't have a space at the Transfer Station, but we do at the Highway Garage. DPW reluctantly does go and retrieve large items, if it's in the way. Will put this topic on the agenda for a future meeting.

Shifting gears to LEDs. Carla hasn't been able to get to the recent meetings w/ CLC; we filled her in on the background. If the BOS say "Yes" we want the lights, the Town will sign an agreement and replacement will begin in the Fall. We would then be able to stipulate our choices. We have asked them for a lower Kelvin rate (3500K). The original demo projects involved 6000K and no backlight shields. The 2<sup>nd</sup> demo involved the lower K rate and the backlight shields.

The replacements would be town-wide and include municipal parking lots. The only lights that wouldn't be replaced would be privately-owned ones, and David doesn't think there are any. Not sure about the poles along Route 6.

Brightness and Color are the two variables. Kelvin is color (we want the 3500K); Luminaires is brightness. We might want 9500s on certain streets, and 5500s on others. Shielding is a big issue. We have old poles, old fixtures, and it makes it hard to angle the shields. We need the backlight shields to be factory-installed, so the only adjustment able to be made will be the angle of the fixture.

Estimated savings in efficiency is 60% (\$21,000/yr) on streetlight utility bill alone. CLC looked at our existing inventory and estimated it on a one-to-one replacement. Since we will probably go w/ lower lumens at many of the poles, we will likely save more than that. If new technology becomes available within the duration of the contract w/ CLC, we can pay for that ourselves.

Carla is proud that Provincetown has come up w/ the difficult questions for CLC to respond to. Lydia said that she has been communicating daily w/ Kevin Galligan and he has been bending over backwards to accommodate our needs.

[David said that the Planning Board just approved installation of solar panels at the Transfer Station, which is another avenue of saving energy and getting returns on our utility bill.]

Carla asked about taking a phased approach. David said we can exempt a certain area of town from the replacement phase, but we may not get them to install that area later. That also creates a management problem for two different sets of lights. Lydia read from an email from Kevin wherein he said that even if we don't sign up by June 24<sup>th</sup>, CLC would like to know whether BOS may want to get involved "at some future date".

We need to take advantage of the opportunity, but if we recommend to the BOS that we move forward we need to take into account the character of the town. We need them to be customized to suit the town, and keep an option to make changes as needed. Such options might include lowering the Kelvin rate; lowering the Lumen strength. Already requested that backlights are installed at factory level.

Carla asked about installing the LEDs on the main travel corridors and leaving the side streets alone until a later date, to see how we feel about them. Technology may allow us to get at something we'd prefer during that time. Lydia said she has consulted with a couple lighting technicians who say that drastically different technology is a long way out; we're going to be at this stage for the foreseeable future.

Laura reminded the group that CLC wants us to provide them with a definite order of the number and placement of LEDs, and that we need to go around after dark and mark out our plan. She suggested that all streets should be included, because a phased-approach will only draw out the transition. She offered to drive around w/ other members & a map of the area to mark things out. David said there are maps of the poles, not necessarily of the lights. We'll go out w/ a highlighter and do it manually, or just to verify what is there.

The Town wants RREC to make a recommendation to BOS. David said that since Lydia has been so involved w/ the program that she be at the next meeting, 6/24, to present it. If we want to include a report along with the recommendation, David encouraged it. It will make the decision easier for the BOS.

Laura moved that we make a recommendation to the BOS that we move forward w/ the LED streetlight program, in cooperation with the CLC, with specific parameters:

1. that the maximum color level be 3500 Kelvin rate
2. that the backlight shields are installed at the factory level

RREC will make a plan for the placement of the LEDs townwide, with attention to using appropriate lumens.

Lydia seconded the motion; all were in favor.

Lydia will attend the BOS meeting and will present a one-page memo to BOS with a motion to move ahead as stipulated. Laura will write up the memo and send to David by 6/19 for inclusion in the BOS packet. David and Lydia will connect today on getting the maps for our drive-by.

Monday 6/24/13, 6pm BOS meeting (we will be about 1.5 hours down the agenda

Tuesday 7/16/13, 10am

- Plastic Bags – encourage town to develop a policy that mirrors the Commonwealth's mandates/by-laws
- Conversation about how to deal w/ bulk trash (chairs, TVs, mattresses)
- Compost townwide

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

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30am.