

Recycling and Renewable Energy Committee

Minutes from 26 September, 2013 at 10:00am Caucus Hall Meeting Room

Attending: Lydia Hamnquist, Laura Ludwig, Elise Cozzi, Carla Anderson, Jen Rumpza (now a full-time member).

Latex paint recycling – there are programs available at hardware stores in other states, we want to implement a program here in town. Both stores are Ben Moore vendors. Existing programs add 50 cents to the cost of the paint can, and anyone can bring leftover paint back.

Lydia will talk to the managers of the two stores, and we can also check out SherwinWilliams' existing program.

Plastic Bags – don't want to call it a BAN. Instead call it a BYOB program. Try to create a by-law which prohibits the use of single-use plastic bags in town, regardless of store size. Need to distinguish between the thin, flimsy bags and the thicker, more expensive bags (like the ones used at Marine Specialities, e.g.). Vendors want to provide a bag for their customers but may not want to switch to canvas bags.

Lydia has investigated plastic bag programs and asked customers what they think of it. Virtually everyone agrees that plastic bags should be banned. Our effort ought to be on the "bring your own bag" bandwagon, or to charge for bags, either plastic or canvas. Different recycling committees around the Cape are talking about bans, particularly anyone near the water due to the ingestion potential by sea life.

Some town language is fairly weak. Have to figure out how to word a by-law so that it gets approval by the town. Be clear about our intention and submit it to town council.

Our Intention:

- To reduce risk of ingestion by birds and marine animals
- To eliminate disposables in Provincetown
- To encourage the use of re-usable products

and to improve the aesthetics along our roadways, walkways and waterways. To accomplish this intention, we mean to create a bylaw that encourages multi-use bags and prohibits single-use plastic bags. The town will provide a source of re-usable bags in an effort to discourage the distribution of single-use plastic bags by businesses. Carla made the motion to send a memo based on this wording to Town Manager SharonLynn, cc David Gardner, asking her to submit our intention to the Town Council for consideration at the spring 2014 town meeting.

Lydia seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Lydia will send the email to Town Manager.

Jen thinks the town could buy in bulk a whole bunch of canvas bags that can be sold to businesses at cost. Stores willing to carry the bags get their logo or their name on the bag. VSB might support the initiative by purchasing the bags, knowing there might be a return from the businesses. "Welcome to Provincetown, Thank you for participating in our BYOB Initiative". Or, if we can get other towns in on it, the wording could be "Thanks for Keeping the Cape Clean – BYOB"

Jen offered to go around town to ask businesses what they think of the BYOB idea. Would be worth encouraging the businesses to sell them.

Language for the store survey: It's our intention to institute a by-law prohibiting the use of plastic and compostable bags. By 2015 it's going to be a law state-wide at certain-sized stores. Would you educate your customers? Would you be willing to participate?

Approach VSB to purchase the bags w/ a basic message on it, and sell them to businesses at cost. Then businesses could pass the cost on to the customer by marking up the product, but they don't need to charge for a bag if they don't want to.

Conservation Commission provides the poop bags. We should talk to them about what bags they use, why they use them, and would they consider re-using grocery store plastic bags in addition to the rolled bags.

Laura will ask Dennis Minsky (Cons. Comm) about the above, and will invite him to come to our next meeting on the 10th. She will also ask him if they would be interested in working with us on the BYOB initiative.

Town Recycling Bin Stickers – The green bins currently are misleading, since they specify only cans, bottles and paper. We want to make bumper stickers to apply over the existing language.

Lydia has some graphic images that we can incorporate into the sample stickers that Laura generated for recycling bins. There will be two stickers, one on top and one on bottom - 15" x 2.5"

Top: RECYCLE HERE

Bottom: Graphic images of 6-8 items acceptable.

Another sticker would go on the trash barrel flap: 9" x 5"

Line 1: TRASH ONLY Line 2: NO RECYCLABLES

Carla made the motion to create the stickers, communicate w/ Beau and get the stickers made. Laura seconded, all were in favor. Laura will push the stickers thru to the vendor and get a final estimate on the cost for 100 of each sticker.

Can inventory – Jen went around town and counted trash vs. recycling cans. East End is short on cans. All town landings ought to have both cans. Flagship is also public access. Need to identify exact spots where cans should go so DPW can get them there. MacMillan Pier has 12 trash cans and 5 recycling bins. Need to fill the gaps during the high season. Two blocks between cans is ideal. Carla made the motion for Lydia to encourage Rich to re-distribute trash cans and recycling bins so that there is no more than two blocks between paired cans. There was discussion about whether that would be too much during winter months. Carla maintained that it would be worth considering. Elise seconded the motion and all were in favor. Lydia will review the list w/ Rich tomorrow morning.

Jen had to leave at 11am.

LED Street lights – Lydia has been in touch w/ Kevin Galligan about our specific requests from CLC. CLC is meeting next Wednesday at 1:30pm about this stage of the process. Siemens got the bid to install the Cape-wide lights. Would be good to ask someone from Siemens whether we will have the capacity to change the light quality after installation, i.e. by adding dimmers, or installing solar panels.

Also need to know whether we can add or eliminate light fixtures during installation phase. We understand there may be additional costs associated with these actions. Lydia will try to attend the meeting and will ask Kevin about these issues.

Set the next meeting times/dates/agendas: Thursday, October 10 at 10am

Agenda to include:

- Update on plastic poop bags used by Conservation Commission
- Update on stickers for recycling bins
- Review of BYOB Intention and Town Council
- New Business

Elise motioned to adjourn; Laura seconded and all were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 11:35pm.