

Recycling and Renewable Energy Committee  
Minutes from 10 April, 2013 at 10am  
Caucus Hall, Provincetown Town Hall

Attending: Elise Cozzi, Lydia Hamnquist, Laura Ludwig (members); David Gardner, Rich Waldo, Morgan Clark (staff); Sean Patrick Harrington (public)

Meeting was called to order at 10am. Lydia moved to approve minutes from March 26<sup>th</sup> -- Elise seconded and all approved. DPW has now provided RREC with all the background information that we requested, so now it's time for RREC to crunch the numbers and prepare for BOS recommendation.

Laura reported on Survey Monkey results to date, but results cannot be printed or exported without investing \$ into the software. She would be interested in correlating the survey results with the data from DPW to see where improvement can be made to our current systems, as part of developing recommendations for BOS. Sean suggested putting a link to the survey up on the Ptown Community Facebook page, and to ask the page's administrator to "pin" it at top of the page.

Re: blue bins – discussion continued regarding the language that still exists on the website which needs to change so that there is no cap on the number of bins a resident can put out on the curb for pick-up. Agreed it is important (and the role of RREC) to educate the general public about blue bins – there are bins available at the transfer station, but may not be necessary for an individual to invest in many more, as the town may be converting to barrels if a new packer truck is purchased.

Rich put forth the two options to recommend to BOS as he sees them:

Option 1: PAYT plus a fee to dump trash at the transfer station

Option 2: increase tax across the board for residents and commercial users with a small increase for commercial dumping.

He prefers Option 2.

If we do PAYT, all \$\$ goes into an Enterprise Fund, which would limit the use of those funds to waste initiatives; whereas the tax increase would benefit more of the town's operations.

PAYT would only impact residents, but so much trash is generated by commercial and rental units that a fair system needs to be developed. Currently, half of commercial haulers dump in Ptown. If we raise the fees, chances are we would lose more of that revenue. Sean wondered if we could offer PAYT for year-rounders, and levy a tax on rentals of 8+ units and commercial businesses, which is essentially Option 1 as Rich described it. Morgan worried that it would price the smaller haulers out.

Regarding Option 2, Rich said he would check with the town financial staff to see what the actual increase in tax would be across the board. RREC will present the information on options to the meetings it has arranged with coffee shops, property managers and to-go places, though those meetings may not be necessary to inform the BOS recommendation.

Lydia made invitation postcards to hand out for the 4/17 meeting, and Laura took some to help deliver them around town. It was agreed that we should only hold the one meeting on 4/17 for businesses, and keep the 4/22 date as an RREC meeting to fine-tune the presentation to BOS. Sean and Morgan emphasized the importance of marketing and outreach for recycling in town, which is the core of the RREC's role. Sean has a marketing background and offered to help if we want to run things by him.

Sean, Rich and Morgan left at 11:30; the core group continued to meet.

Dates for the RREC calendar:

4/17: WhoWhatWhereWhyWhenHow meeting for businesses

4/22: RREC meeting only, to refine input to BOS

5/8: Public Informational Session

5/20: date that BOS needs our information by in order to be included on the agenda

5/28 @ 6pm: BOS meeting

Discussion moved to LED lighting. Lydia read a letter from an architect-neighbor (Blaine Bershad) regarding the quality of the lights selected for the installation here in Ptown, and how there are many other options with higher quality light. David G said options and suggestions need to be presented to Cape Light Compact soon, as they are pretty far along in their survey and pilot installation. The lamps are all one unit, and they are all different – but the cost of the unit provided thru CLC is very low relative to other options. David reiterated that the town is seeking a representative for CVEC (Cape and Vineyard Electric Co-op), which meets 10 times a year in Barnstable and discusses solar initiatives.

Set the next meeting time/date/agenda:

Wednesday, 17 April 2013 at 3pm

Caucus Hall, Provincetown Town Hall

- Informational meeting for small businesses, coffee shops, to-go restaurants to uncover concerns and inform about potential changes in MSW handling

- Approve minutes

- Other business

Laura motioned to adjourn, Elise seconded and vote was unanimous.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:50pm.