

Recycling and Renewable Energy Committee

21 November 2013 at 3pm
Judge Welsh Room, Provincetown Town Hall

Attending: Lydia Hamnquist, Laura Ludwig, Jen Rumpza. Tony Fuccillo Director of Tourism, invited guest.

Lydia invited Tony to introduce the RREC to the Tourism Board and highlighted that the brand new tourism guide to the Cape doesn't include information about recycling. Tony said Brian Carlson developed all the content for the brochure. Provincetown being a Green Community should be highlighted in a visitors' guide. One of the VSB focus is "eco-tourism" which also aligns with the Green Community program. VSB will likely host another Eco-Tourism Summit in the spring, to which the RREC members could be invited.

Lydia asked Tony about his thoughts on having a plastic bag ban or levy, given the upcoming state regulations. Tony says NYC is way ahead of us, for example – everyone takes their cloth bags with them everywhere. The rest of the country is slow to take up that approach. Tony has seen bags made from recycled PET, thinks that would be a good idea. Currently VSB gives out zippered bags at trade shows, which may be more expensive. He liked the idea of handing out the bags at the bus station, ferry terminals and parking lot stations.

Town motto was Provincetown: Like Nowhere Else; now it is Provincetown: America's First Destination. Could also have the iTown app printed on them. Tony will look into pricing bags. Those made overseas are cheap; more expensive to order domestically. VSB as a government office would have to get 3 bids and go w/ the cheapest. But the RREC could choose to source them elsewhere if we wanted, so VSB could present us w/ their research and we could take it from there.

State initiative would not ban "biodegradable" or "compostable" bags; we want to extend it to all plastic bags used in retail. We'd like to be a leader in the effort, given our location in the middle of the ocean. VSB deadline for applying for funds (Dec 2). These are normally for events, to encourage more visitorship; and also for "enhancement". Grant cycle is FY15 (Jul1 2014 start date). Over \$120k this year for those grants. Money for reusable bags would not come from the grant budget, but directly from the town marketing budget. VSB gave town the money to buy the dual trash/recycling bins for Town Hall, approximately \$1000 each bin (!).

Laura will submit an application to VSB for supplemental funds for trash can art project.

Any "BYOB" initiative would start slowly. Tony has a concern that not everyone would be on the same page regarding bags. Depending on the expense of the bags, it would be a great idea. Would have to have a LOT of bags, since there are so many visitors

annually. We could start out small and increase gradually. Some stores with more expensive logo bags could continue to use their inventory.

VSB gets their stickers from GraphicSmith (Chuck Smith). Another one in Hyannis, Sunderland (Sean) is reasonable. Tony will work w/ us on the bag research and we will stay in touch.

Laura moved to approve minutes from 11/7; Jen seconded and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 3:55pm.