

Recycling and Renewable Energy Committee

9 December 2013 at 10pm
Judge Welsh Room, Provincetown Town Hall

Attending: Lydia Hamnquist, Laura Ludwig, Carla Anderson. Cameo appearances by Rich Waldo and David Gardner.

Street Lights:

Lydia updated us on her conversation with Kevin Galligan regarding installation of an additional sample LED lamp which will be installed at the corner of Bradford and Johnson Street by December 13. XSP1 LED streetlight which is similar to the current cobra-head style with a backlight shield. The light strength will be 4000 Kelvin, which is the warmest color he can get in that style with a backlight shield. Lydia has forwarded this info to two other lighting contacts to see what they think. We are concerned that our original stipulations are going to be overlooked as the CLC process continues. We need to remind Kevin and the BOS of why we made our recommendations, which reflect the input received from the public. Lydia wants to encourage the public to let us know what they think of the newly installed light(s).

* Carla suggested sending the BOS a memo regarding the installation of the new sample lights. She will send Lydia a draft memo to submit for the BOS consideration.

Plastic Bags:

We need Board of Health input to help us provide language for all aspects of the bag regulation, as per Gregg Corbel's input on November 7. Lydia will meet with Brian Carlson and develop language that would be geared toward submitting as a by-law. Refer to minutes of 11/7 and 11/21 for background discussion. If the town sells or provides free reusable bags, we want them to be made of cotton, hemp, linen or other non-plastic material.

DPW update:

Rich Waldo stopped in on his way to a Staff meeting. The new recycling truck is on the road. He explained that they're trying to get someone to take over the staff liaison role now that David Guertin is retired. They would prefer to hire an engineer who knows buildings very well to build on the maintenance plan they began last year. They have 7 good applicants and the town is deliberating about the hiring process. The new recycling truck can handle any size recycling bin, so when the DPW is logistically ready to handle a larger sized curbside recycling bin, we will order stickers for residents to apply to their own bins. Rich has enlisted David Quinn to review the existing waste and recycling management systems to see where adjustments could be made more efficient. DPW is trying to implement a fee for commercial haulers to use the Ptown Transfer Station.

Trash Barrel Art Project is targeted to happen in February or March, and Rich would like to leave the date open until they lock in the new staff person and arrange for the Americorps person. It's likely that February would be OK, but March would be

preferable. We can make arrangements to shift the location and artist commitment for March.

David Gardner stopped by (on his way to the same Staff meeting) and confirmed the hiring process for the new DPW staff. Carla suggested that an RREC member could make statement at a BOS meeting, and it was agreed that we will be there at the appropriate time to make a supportive statement. Lydia asked about whether plastic bags clog the storm drains and Rich said he will talk to the septic guys to see what they come up against.

Rich and David left at 10:30.

Back to Plastic Bags:

David Quinn has sent Lydia a lot of information about towns that have implemented bag bans. Nearly all of them exempt “compostable” and “biodegradable” bags. We don’t have to do that. In the course of developing the by-law language we can steer it the way we want. The language needs to match our purpose, and also align with (or surpass) the upcoming Commonwealth’s law.

* Carla offered to review all our minutes and the info we have on plastic bags and put together some language that captures our intent, with a project timeline from now until Town Meeting, and the goal of submitting the language to Town Counsel for the regulatory process.

* Laura will send Tony Fuccillo an email letting him know that we are in the process of developing the town bag by-laws and we don’t want the VSB to go ahead w/ any bag purchases until we have a vote. If the town votes to ban plastic bags, it would be smart to get bags that are non-plastic.

We will attend a BOH meeting to provide background information on plastics in the marine environment and issues of health. We will try to get a meeting w/ BOH in February and Laura will attend. At that meeting we will ask them to vote on our recommendations.

Recycling Stickers:

Lydia’s son Erik generated art work for the square green recycling cans. Laura gave them to Beau Jackett, who converted them to the appropriate file for use by the sticker vendor (Angus Garfield). We also want to get stickers for large curbside recycling bins, depicting the standard recycling symbol. The town could charge \$5/for two stickers (same cost as a blue bin) and make the stickers available at the usual outlets. Once the new truck is up and running, we should get the Banner to do an article (early February).

* Laura will submit the artwork and get an estimate from the vendor for both the square bins and the recycling symbol stickers.

* Laura will send a memo to David Gardner about the recycling stickers and get info on how to purchase them (versus the other stickers). David stopped by and responded to this – if it's a one-off purchase and we need to do a reimbursement, they can; but the vendor can send an invoice. Town cannot pay sales tax.

Trash Can Art:

Carla provided a draft of the project. Laura received funds from the Local Cultural Council (\$1385) and submitted a grant application to the VSB for \$1750 to help defray paint costs. Location will be at the Province Landing, not at Gallery Ehva as originally thought, because she is concerned about impact/damage.

Other Business:

Year-Rounders – March 8, 2014 -- RREC table will have recycling stickers and a FAQ sheet about plastic bag ban, as well as an info sheet about what we're proposing at Town Meeting; streetlight update; and invitation to paint trash cans. We should also have a more formal poll about the plastic bag initiative. Give away (or sell) town cloth bags.

Marine Debris funding opportunity – Center for Coastal Studies is applying for its own marine plastic initiative but Laura thinks that it's a great opportunity for RREC. David Gardner stopped by and will put Laura in touch with Brian and the Americorps person (Austin) who generally deal w/ town grants.

Carla recommends writing in the acquisition of beach-appropriate trash cans. Get letters of support from Peake and Wolf – Dan loves to sail on the harbor!

Proposal should also involve the plastic bag initiative and others.

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 9, 2014, 10am in Town Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10pm.