

**Town of Provincetown
Recycling & Renewable Energy Committee
Caucus Hall at Provincetown Town Hall
260 Commercial St., Provincetown
Minutes of Wednesday, February 28, 2018**

Meeting called to order at 9:04am.

Members present: Laura Ludwig, Tess Knowles, Jay Gurewitsch, Elise Cozzi. Members excused: Jen Rumpza, Lydia Hamnquist, Carolyn Clough. Staff: Sherry Prada, DPW; Ben Weihbrecht; Ian Edwards; Ann Stott; Rik Ahlburg, Chair of Bicycling Committee

Agenda:

1. Public Comments
2. Polystyrene
3. Sustainability
4. 2018 Great Massachusetts Cleanup
5. OCEC Progress report to date - installer chosen, tier 5 achieved by early March ; Publicity; Dates for future OCEC information evenings
6. Year Rounders Festival March 10th; OCEC table
7. DPW updates

Public comments – Rik Ahlburg discussed the town being a “sustainable” community (adopted Kyoto protocols in 2006) to encourage/promote measurable targets regarding conservation and environmental efforts. Provincetown is one of the best biking towns in the US. There will be a “dockless” bike rental business coming to town this summer. Location/s are TBA. Many more bike racks will be installed this spring as well, increasing capacity in the center of town.

Polystyrene/Straws - Ann Stott is interested in promoting a ban on polystyrene (PS) and plastic straws in Provincetown. Wellfleet banned PS in 2017. She used the Wellfleet PS by-law as a template for our town (handout), and drafted a straw by-law. She would like us to consider bringing them both forward for the TM warrant. In Wellfleet they made arrangements w/ the DPW to accept bulk/excess product from businesses purging old inventory. Suppliers from the Cape were invited to a public information meeting to introduce sample products. Laura moved to

consider both proposals as to how to move the issues forward. Elise seconded and all were in favor. Discussion ensued.

- Ben mentioned PR issues when customers ask for a straw and are told they cannot have one; a town-wide ban would make that easier.
- Jay brought up that enforcement on the bag law is still lacking and is concerned that it would be difficult to enforce other bans. Elise requested a meeting with Morgan to formalize a plastic bag review in the health inspections and to modify the existing bag by-law identifying one enforcement agent (BOH).
- Ian wondered if there is a commercial leader already working toward these initiatives. Some are.

Elise made a motion to encourage Ann to bring the two by-laws to TM as a citizen initiative with RREC approval. Tess seconded. Discussion included wanting more time to read the by-laws and put together an outreach effort. A vote was taken, and the committee approved 3 to 1 (Laura voted against in deference to the struggle w/ the bag bylaw). Ann can put together a bulleted sheet for use at YRF.

Sustainability discussion – Ian (Jay’s husband) is the director of BROTO, art and science collaborations on climate change. He can guide us in our discussion about this committee’s identity (sustainability vs. recycling committee). He provided his background with corporate social responsibility/ethics. The town’s resiliency planning is in its nascent stages and this committee would like to urge it along and participate where it makes sense. Adaptation; future proofing; “long-termism” are guiding components of a town plan.

Discussed the format of a new “resiliency” committee/commission which would involve representatives of various important stakeholders including harbor, science, conservation, historic, transportation, etc. Discussed possibly to re-brand and augment this committee and invite more members with these backgrounds. Laura suggested that a new and separate committee/commission be formed in consultation with staff.

Ian suggested thinking more broadly about the composition of the committee and including reps from other Cape towns, given that the issues will be shared. There may be federal funding for a pilot program centered on Provincetown (NOAA Resiliency grants).

Sherry reported that a new DPW engineer position should be filled soon, at which time we could engage that person in developing a resiliency commission. We will postpone further discussion on this issue until after TM. We could ask the Town Manager to attend one of our May meetings regarding establishment of a pilot strategy committee; will include this item on the first agenda of May. Many cities are adopting the Paris Accord; maybe Provincetown could revisit that.

Mass Cleanup Day – we have switched our cleanup to April 21 to coincide with the CCS beach cleanups. Sherry has priced out reflective vests. We will try to get them locally. Laura will put together a signup sheet for YRF.

OCEC -- Jay reported that Ace Solar, installer, was chosen by the committee. The meet-the-installer event in Provincetown was poorly attended due to poor advertising. 150 people have signed up; all are being contacted by Ace and a dozen contracts have been signed. We have reached Tier 5 pricing. OCEC will be at YRF; Tim has volunteered to staff that table. Incentive for the town w/ the greatest number of contracts is that a non-profit will receive a free panel installation. Upcoming events are 3/10 (YRF); 3/14 @ 6:30 (Napi's); 4/21 @ 4pm (Napi's, 2nd Homeowners). We will broadcast the meetings on FB.

DPW updates: FinCom passed our budget with flying station, for bottle filling stations and sidewalk buttlers. Anika Costa is resigning from the Town Hall, the application is out now. Also trying to fill a position at the Highway Dept.

Jay said that the VSB wondered about the trash can art project, which has languished over the past couple of years. Rik said that the Public Landscape committee is also looking at upgrading trash cans. We will try to collaborate with them.

Elise moved to approve the minutes from February 7th. Jayseconded and all were in favor.

Next meeting tentatively scheduled WEDNESDAY on March 21, 9:00am; Elise moved to adjourn. Tess seconded and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 11:02am.