

**Recycling and Renewable Energy Committee
Minutes from 6 August 08, 5-6:20pm, Town Hall, Provincetown**

Attending: Mike Leger, Lee Bartell, Connie Black, Ghee Patrick, Amy Germain

Preceding Minutes: Ghee moved to accept the minutes as written, Connie seconded, 5/0.

Single Stream: Mike mentioned this concept which was mentioned in the Business Week article that he forwarded to us. Basically, it means that all recyclables (paper, cardboard, glass, plastic, tin/aluminum) are put into one receptacle, larger than our current individual blue recycling bins. A number of communities are starting this, so it will be interesting to watch its progress. The response that he received from Sandy at the DPW office was that despite recycling having doubled in the past year, she doesn't have the manpower to get it all done, so she doesn't want to see any more recycling.

Sharon Lynn: We discussed that we need to have a meeting with Ms. Lynn, our Town Manager, both to follow up our meeting with the Selectboard, and to see what can be done about more recycling. Since we switched recycling companies July 2007, the town has saved over \$40,000. We wonder if a small amount of this savings could fund a position. Amy made a motion for Mike to ask for a meeting with Sharon Lynn, Lee seconded, 5/0.

Maushope: Mike reported that a shed was built with an 8 recycling bin capacity inside. Though this is a town property, DPW said that Maushope needed to purchase the bins themselves. Mike thought that that was wrong, but to get the program started, he paid for the bins. (Note: he has since been told that the Town would pay for them, and that he could get a refund.)

Debora Rosen: She showed up, and reported that she had been told by Sandy that "no wet paper" could be accepted for recycling. We had a long discussion about recycling, and Sandy's frustration with our efforts that create more work for the men at the DPW, plus those that collect the recyclables. Debora also reported on the complaints that have been made to the Board of Health because of issues at the Grand Union. (Note: a front page story in the Cape Cod Times this week documented this problem.)

Our Good Work: Thanks to our input to the Board of Health, there are now recycling bins at the Grand Union, at Cumberland Farms, etc. Ghee reported that when folks have the opportunity to recycle, they get interested in it.

DEP Grant: The deadline to apply for this year's bounty from the DEP is 11 Sept. Amy will do it, and get it onto the Selectboard's agenda in time to submit it. We'll ask for a dozen wire baskets. The wire baskets that we got last round are similar to the one that Lee saw in Northampton. Northampton's were black, not green, and had a wire top, not a solid one. Because one can see into them, it seems to keep contamination down. (Note: Lee found out that in Northampton, "Pedal People" collect the recyclables from the wire baskets. They ride a bike with a trailer added on, and put everything into the trailer; 95% plastic, with only a little glass, is what they have. Their recyclables go co-mingled to Springfield, so they don't need to separate them. Plastic is the overwhelming material in ours, too, so it may be easy to weed out the glass bottles from our "trailer". A "Pedal Person" would work perfectly in town, as it's easy to ride one end of town to the other, and it would cost a pittance to rig it up and pay someone to do this. An idea to bring to the Town Manager meeting.)

FAA: Mike is still waiting for the response from the FAA re: flight patterns and a wind turbine at the Transfer Station. The MAC (Mass. Aeronautical Commission) gave us a thumbs up on it already.

EDC: Would we want to meet with the Economic Development Committee, to talk about the things that we have in common, or how we can enhance one another's work?

Recycling Tidbits: Christine DeRosa told us that yes, foil is recyclable, and caps may be left on bottles. (Note: have you noticed our "Did you know that" in the Banner? Each week, there's at least one, if not more, with their size and shape changing all the time.)

Recycling Bins: We decided to put the attractive double units at Town Hall and the Library. Mike will bring a wire basket to the Johnson St. lot, next to the two trash cans, and Lee will take charge of it. (Note: Mike did this, and Lee is monitoring it.) Ghee will ask the Chamber of Commerce to take a wire one, and Lee will ask PAAM.

Plastic Bags: Connie will give her report next month. Mike asked her to find out about Nantucket's "No Plastic" policy and report back to us.

Mike moved that we adjourn, Amy seconded it, 5/0 at 6:20 pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 3 September 2008, 5pm, Town Hall

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"...let us promise to make peace not just a priority, but a passion.
Let us pledge to do more, wherever we are in whatever way we can,
to make every day a day of peace." Ban Ki Moon, UN Secretary-General