

## Provincetown Recycling and Renewable Energy Committee

Minutes of meeting July 23, 2014

Members present: Elise Cozzi, Lydia Hamnquist, Laura Ludwig; Eric Larsen, staff; Khristine Hopkins, invited guest. Members excused: Jen Rumpza, Susanalice Musall

Agenda:

1. Plastic bag ban at fall town meeting - state wide ban
2. Meeting with stop and shop manager
3. Art can project - locations for cans
4. Town mailings
5. BOS meeting about transfer station hours
6. Americorp volunteers at transfer station on busy days giving out information
7. Talk at library about recycling

Meeting called to order at 10am.

Lydia reported that she worked w/ Morgan to display composting flyers that were given us by the Cooperative Extension. They are now included in the public info rack in the basement of Town Hall.

During the public comments section of the meeting, Khristine told us about her new solar installation at 18 Alden Street. The switch from conventional to solar took place this morning as she left to attend this meeting. Sunjevity is the company that did the installation. She recommends the company, they partner w/ the Sierra Club and have been involved with environmental activism. In March 2014 she was contacted via SC with an opportunity to work w/ Sunjevity, which up til then had not operated in MA. They worked closely with Khristine to navigate the Historic District requirements; and the Provincetown Town Planner (Gloria McPherson) encouraged the chair of the Historic District Commission (John Dowd) to allow solar installations. Kenny Gregory at 6 Soper Street also has a Sunjevity installation which is very discreet.

As part of the application to the HDC, Khristine and her husband worked closely with Gloria and the Sunjevity rep to depict the installation with images and supporting testimonials from abutters. The meeting proceedings are captured on the Town's website, June 4, 2014, toward the end of the meeting.

The arrangement is for a 20-year lease, versus buying the array -- \$66/month, which can be reduced or even removed by paying more up front. It is an affordable approach to installation. Sunjevity monitors the installation remotely via the internet and contacts the homeowner if anything requires attention.

Trash Can Art – Four barrels were given to artists for painting designs: one has been returned to DPW; the other three have not yet. Jen will need to follow up with those artists. Laura suggested working with Cherie Mittenthal to spread the word about a wider approach. Laura will generate a document containing the following items to have Jen and Cherie push it thru:

- In preparation for 2020, run program annually for 3-5 years.
- Offer opportunity to one dozen artists each year, inviting new applicants in the fall
- Each artist to do four barrels or so.
- Artist will provide us w/ a cut sheet, depicting four design ideas for barrels (we need to provide painting parameters, space available)
- Indicate that a Stipend will be offered and Materials will be covered
- For the first round, the timeframe is late fall 2014 with deployment spring 2015
- Themes include Green Community, 2020, Environmental responsibility, encourage recycling, reduce MSW tonnage, marine debris

Locations were determined for first four barrels (Comm St @ Twisted, Howland St, Tourism Office and Arnold's Bikes) -- other locations will spread out from there.

David Gardner stopped in to let us know that Austin Brant was hired as the new Energy Manager. His duties will include public outreach for energy saving programs, and working internally to meet the town's 20% energy reduction. Austin has been the Americorp representative for the town since October.

Lydia asked David about having an Americorp volunteer at the Transfer Station to hand out informational flyers; he told us that they are available under our contract with them but we would have to set up a program. Lydia has worked w/ DPW to have new recycling signs ordered for the Transfer Station to discourage using plastic bags for disposing of recyclables.

Eric encouraged us to focus on the plastic bag by-law for our next meeting. Lydia will meet w/ Melinda McCarthy to tour their facility at Stop n Shop. Laura has received a lot of info from the County Extension office about many towns seeking to push thru bylaws of their own, and it's likely we will all try to unify the message.

Eric also said he has spoken with David Quinn about increasing the offerings of our Transfer Station, which is getting a major overhaul. They are looking into receiving textiles, furniture, mattresses, electronics, compost, and other items which require state permitting. It would be a fee-based structure.

He discussed Transfer Station hours and policies, which was on the BOS agenda recently. He provided the revenue data to the selectmen, which showed that it will cost the town another \$47-87,000 annually to be open 7 days a week. He would like to get more details about usage over

the year to get a more accurate picture of which days are heaviest use. Any change to the existing schedule will have a cascading effect on many existing systems (collection, plant responsibilities, personnel, etc.).

Elise has spoken to Matt Clark at the Town Library about holding a series of Recycling Talks there, including a review of the Transfer Station changes. He is very open to that idea. We will need to get the information out via Facebook, our website, or a mailing. Elise agreed to spearhead that effort after getting more details about the Transfer Station from Eric.

Elise contacted the Water Dept. to see about putting an info sheet in the water bill. There have been issues with the mechanical mailing machine, but they said they would be able to try it with a paper heavier than 20lb regular paper but lighter than card stock. We will work with them to provide the text in a timely manner.

Next meeting will be set after we talk to Stop n Shop manager.

Laura moved to adjourn; all were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 11:21.