

Provincetown Recycling and Renewable Energy Committee
Minutes of meeting 9/10/14
Judge Welsh Meeting Room, Town Hall

Members present: Elise Cozzi, Lydia Hamnquist, Laura Ludwig, Jen Rumpza, Susanalice Musall, Anna Meade; Eric Larsen, Austin Brandt, staff.

Agenda:

1. Approve Meeting Minutes
2. Plastic Bag Ban Article
3. Selectmen's Meeting October 2, 2014
4. Liz Argo's Wind Project
5. Set Date for Next Meeting
6. Other Business

Meeting called to order at 10am. Minutes from the 8/6/14 meeting were approved.

Other business was discussed first – Eric updated the group on the plans for the Transfer Station. DPW has been meeting with the County Extension Svc. and DEP to expand the offerings at the Transfer Station. Demolition debris, mattresses, food waste and other items that are currently not accepted are among the new parameters. The town's MSW hauling contract expires on 1/1/15, so other haulers are being identified. It is anticipated that the restructuring will be in place sometime in the spring of 2015. A meeting with the Board of Health on October 16, 2014, will be held to review all aspects of the Transfer Station, including recycling, solid waste, hours of operation, the new contract, etc.

We have secured permission from the administration to send out a flyer with the next town-wide mailing of the water bill. Information about what is and is not acceptable at both curbside and the Transfer Station will be outlined. We will reformat the existing flyer so that it fits on one side of a page and is easily posted on a wall. Deadline for the mailing is October 20th.

Recycling cans – Eric checked with Tony Lemme and learned that the dozen new cans that Lydia stickered w/ the new recycling stickers have not been deployed because it is the end of the season. However, the committee noted that there are several locations in town where a trash barrel exists alone. Anna suggested we submit a list of locations to Eric for ease of deployment. The sites include: Land's End, Capt. Jack's, Town Hall on Commercial Street, and extra one at Lydia's store, and Ryder Street between Commercial and the wharf.

Plastic Bags – With input from David Quinn and others, Laura had drafted a slightly revised plastic bag bylaw and sent it to the committee for review. It was agreed that we prefer to call our initiative a plastic bag "reduction" versus a "ban," given that many plastic bags will still be acceptable. Lydia submitted the preliminary bylaw language to Town Counsel, but we would like to revise it further to simplify and shorten it. We will specify the mill rate as 1.5, which is slightly thicker than the grocery store bags but thinner than many retail store bags. We will remove the clause about enforcement and let the details for that piece be hammered out by staff afterward. Eric suggested we work w/ the Licensing Board, Aaron Hobart, agent, to work out the enforcement component, perhaps modelling the fee structure on the way grease traps are handled, where annual licensing is contingent upon compliance. Lydia would like to add language pertaining to so-called "biodegradable" and "compostable" bags, about which there is much misinformation.

Lydia will request a meeting with Town Counsel to review the bylaw language; in lieu of that we will submit a revised, simplified version to both Counsel and BOS before the September 22 meeting.

An off-shoot discussion pertained to pet waste. It was agreed we should be prepared for questions from pet owners as to options for waste disposal, in the event that the bag reduction is implemented. There are many alternatives; any composting ideas would need to be run by the BOH at a minimum.

Austin Brandt gave a preview of a wind power presentation that will be given by Liz Argo of CVEC at the next BOS meeting. The wind project will be installed in Plymouth contingent upon enough Cape towns signing on as “off-takers.” He also updated us on a current solar energy opportunity – Solarize Mass, which was the funding source for Wellfleet’s recent solar inventory, has released a new RFP and Provincetown may apply if we meet the criteria of having 1,000 owner-occupied residences. The funds would allow for a similar inventory of solar potential, and would further the town’s intention of increasing solar installations. RREC supports this effort very strongly.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, September 17 at 10am.

Susanalice moved to adjourn; all were in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:45am.