

# Recycling and Renewable Energy Committee

Minutes from 8 August 07, Town Hall, 6-7:20pm

**Attending:** Mike Leger, Jim Denietolis, Brian Carlson, Ghee Patrick, Amy Germain, Lee Bartell, and Conny Hatch.

**Preceding Minutes:** Approved as amended

**Integrated Paper Recycling (IPR):** Jim reported that the new paper compactor will be up in a week or so. The plastic/metal compactor is already running. Next meeting, he'll give us statistics on their first month.

**Clear Plastic Bags:** Lee wondered if it wouldn't work here, as it has elsewhere. When residents put out their trash, if anything recyclable showed through, then the trash wouldn't be accepted. Very quickly, folks really started recycling. Seems as it's worth a try. Maybe we could get support for the effort from the DPW, as it will result in more recycling with less trash. Win-win, as they say.

**Grant Writing Workshop:** Both Jim and Mike attended this Yarmouth workshop today and reported that there are funds available from the MA DEP, though all the towns in the Commonwealth are competing for funding from the same source. There's a Sept. 13th deadline for applying, though the form is online and easy to complete. Mike passed an application around. Their website is: [www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/recawgr.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/recawgr.htm) At our next meeting, we'll finalize the plan. The DEP will give the town a 3-ring binder of templates, info, etc. on recycling.

**Board of Health:** Brian said that he's received a few positive comments to the business community letter that he sent out, re: recycling. Both the PBG and the Chamber were "on board". He'll be sending out a renewal letter in fall, and we may want to include a letter from our committee in his mailing.

**Banned Stuff:** How do we get rid of it? If we know that we can't "throw it away", how can we dispose of it, correctly? It's so confusing to folks, what do we do with old batteries, for instance, plus it's expensive for some, as there are fees to get rid of a refrigerator, TV, tires, etc. Ghee suggested that we have an Amnesty Day, as the town used to have (both spring and fall). We had a lively discussion about it, and all agreed that we need to make recycling as easy, fun, simple, and cheap for folks, as is possible. We agreed to send a letter to the DPW, inquiring if the town can have an Amnesty Day on Saturday, Oct. 6th, which is our annual day for getting rid of toxic stuff. Mike will draft a letter, send it to us, and we'll discuss it at our next meeting. Brian said that he'd bring up the idea at the next Board of Health meeting.

**Horse Manure:** Brian said that there a few stables in town that need to get rid of horse manure, perhaps on a weekly schedule. One thought was bring it to the compost heap at the Transfer Station, but we were told by Jim that the compost heap is not in regulation, as it's too large, and there's stuff in it which isn't good for compost for our gardens. It needs a sifter and other equipment to turn it, for starters. Another suggestion is that if there were a loader there, it could load woodchips into one's pickup, or load manure, too. Ghee pointed out that any gardener would be happy to have it. Lee suggested that an ad in the paper would probably solve the problem.

**DPW Fees:** On August 23rd, there will be a public hearing at the Board of Health meeting. With some concern, we voted 3-1 to support the fee structure. A letter will be sent to the Board of Health on this issue. Jim told us that our tire fee, at \$5 each car tire, for example, is less than most other lower Cape towns.

**Town Open Meeting Law:** Mike handed out copies received from Doug Johnstone, Town Clerk, of "E-mails and the Open Meeting Law & Public Records Law" for us to read.

**Budget:** We, the previous Recycling Committee, used to have a few thousand dollars each annual budget, but it got absorbed by the DPW. Many town committees do have a budget (Health \$2000, Conservation \$1400 plus fees). Amy mentioned how we need to focus on big plans, such as a windmill at the Transfer Station, for example. She said that she'd look into other committees, possibly in other towns, to compare.

**Whale Watching Boats:** Lee reported that the Portuguese Princess is recycling in their galley. Amy reported that the Dolphin Fleet isn't doing that yet, but that she's working on them. She still wants to talk with their Education person.

**Licensing Haulers:** Brian reported that he and Jane, Health Agent, had discussed possibly waiving the license fee if the haulers will recycle. These are the "out-of-town" haulers, who pick up here, but take the trash and recyclables elsewhere. The problem is that we've seen them toss recyclables right into the trash hopper.

**Acknowledgements:** Amy created a "Certificate of Excellence" to present to those whom we believe are doing a great job recycling, such as DeVita and Roderick haulers. We look forward to the day when we can thank Allied/BFI and Cape Cod Disposal, too.

**Going Paperless:** Amy will meet with Sharon Lynn to discuss this idea for Town Hall. This needs to be on next meeting's agenda.

**Ongoing Goal:** What are the priorities of our committee? We need to define them, and then meet with the Selectboard. This can be part of our discussion each meeting.

**Promised Land TV:** We need to discuss Catherine's ideas presented last meeting. She'll help us promote our ideas, help educate, so we can't drop the ball on this.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, 22 August 07, 6pm, Town Hall**

minutes submitted by Lee Bartell

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