

Recycling and Renewable Energy Committee

Minutes from 4 February 2009, 5-6:00pm, Community Center, Provincetown

Attending: Amy Germain, Ghee Patrick, Lee Bartell

Minutes: Amy moved to approve the preceding minutes, Ghee seconded, vote was 3/0/0

Cleaning Supplies: The room at the Community Center where we were supposed to meet had just had the tabletops cleaned with a Lysol spray. It was so strong an odor that we met in another room. Brendan, who works at the Center, told Lee that he uses what the Town sends him. How about using a "green" cleaner, that doesn't have harsh chemicals in it, but cleans just as well? Lee is going to try to find out who buys the supplies, and get an answer.

Big Belly: This is a solar trash compactor, which our Selectboard saw at the MMA meeting in Boston, and about which got very excited. Elaine Anderson, from the Selectboard, had sent Lee info about Big Belly, which she brought to our meeting. It's like a mail box, opens with the same kind of chute, but has a flat top which is all solar panels, which compacts the trash. It holds the equivalent of 6 trash cans. They're set up to hold advertising on their sides, which could help fund them. We had a long discussion about it, and believe that our mesh recycling bin needs to be next to each of them. If it isn't, then recyclables will be thrown away, and that's against our Recycling Laws in the Commonwealth. Check out www.bigbellysolar.com

Recycling at Events: Amy emailed Brian Carlson and Darlene in licensing, and tried to get answers about why it isn't automatically done, and the flurry of emails ended up saying that the wording is in the licensing for special events, and then the whole thing kind of got deferred to David Gardner. The problem we see is in enforcement. It's wonderful if the wording says this recycling blah-blah-blah has to happen, but enforcing it is what will make it succeed.

Bottle Bill: The governor has proposed expanding the state's 5 cents-per-bottle bill to plain and flavored water, coffee-based drink bottles, juices and sports drinks (un-carbonated drinks). Our own Sarah Peake wrote in an email: I agree and have signed on to the House bill that also calls for this. If it doesn't happen as part of the budget debate, it can happen as a stand alone bill. Ghee will ask Sen. O'Leary for the bill info, and suggest that the deposit be 10 cents, to get folks to readily redeem their bottles for the dime. Once we know the details of the bill, we'll write letters to the editors of papers, and ask others to do the same. Lee will ask The Banner to help with the publicity about it. The bottlers, distributors, and retailers are all against this, so we need to get a lot of support for it. It's just nuts that only carbonated drink bottles are redeemable.

Wind Turbines: Ghee wrote to Meghan Amsler, at Reliance.org, about the fact that the FAA said that the turbine we proposed for the Transfer Station was too tall. She was told that if the turbine is under 152 feet, then it's not under the purview of the FAA. This needs further investigation and study.

Commercial Recycling: Ghee spoke to both Roderick's and Nauset picker-uppers, (though Nauset's recycling efforts only apply to residential collection), about how we can make recycling by commercial establishments easier. It's a perennial problem, so if we can somehow make it easier to comply, we're going to try.

DPW Meeting: Ghee will ring Sandy to see if we can meet with her to talk about recycling and what's possible. She'll let us know what she hears.

Selectboard: As mentioned earlier, we had a great discussion about Big Belly. So did the Selectboard, we've heard, but there's no communication between us, the official town committee and the Selectboard. Big Belly is a recycling machine, and Recycling is the first name of our committee. We would have loved to have had the Selectboard contact us to come in and discuss it. Lee will write Elaine to ask her to keep us in the loop.

Recycling Questions: We came up with a long list of questions to ask Integrated Paper, the company that collects our recyclables. Some of our questions are; can plastic bags with a triangle with 04 in it be recycled? waxed cardboard OK or not? CD boxes? meat foam trays? rubber bands & paper clips of all sizes & plastic spiral binders on paper,??????
Lee will try to get answers.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 4 March 2009, 5pm, (probably) the Community Center

Minutes by Lee

Lee Bartell