

Minutes of the Recycling & Renewable Energy Committee Meeting held Wednesday, January 4, 2017 in the Department of Community Development Conference Room at 10am

Members present: Ludwig, Hamnquist, Cozzi; Larsen, staff; general public - Tess Knowles

Approve 12/7/16 minutes

Lydia moved to approve them, Elise 2nded and all were in favor.

Eric reported that our FY18 budget was approved by the BOS, as well as a request for funds for a bottle filling station as part of the Recycling Equipment line item. Also approved was an extra \$9000 to convert remaining lights to LEDs. Approximately \$30k was saved in 2016 on the new streetlights.

Eric reported that we are increasing our recycling rate annually (2%) on a volume of 4500 tons, a significant increase.

Lydia is working on the RREC annual report which is due by the end of January.

Laura is working on an application for funding from CARE for the Cape and Islands for the purchase of 30 Sidewalk Buttlers. Application is due 1/8/17.

E-cycling vendor

Lydia has found two locations on-Cape which may be better suited to take our e-waste (more responsible disposal). She is working with Morgan on that, and will wrap Eric in on the discussion.

The town still needs a CVEC rep

Staff is not expected to attend the meetings, and the town is asking us to find a volunteer to attend. We have asked many of our contacts and not been successful. Liz Argo is a helpful contact at CVEC and Eric has been keeping in touch with her on issues that affect Provincetown.

Compost meeting

Lydia and Laura attended the Cape Cod Composting Network meeting on December 13 in Barnstable. Elspeth Hay also attended; she has been trying to implement a restaurant composting system for their restaurants (Mac's Seafood) and ran up against space and volume issues. It was agreed that a centralized location mid-Cape would be necessary for town-wide recycling. The weight of food waste (including liquids) is a huge concern.

Eric has reviewed the agreement w/ DEP at the transfer station to see if there is a loophole that would allow industrial restaurant/food waste composting; the issue of course is space, which is why a county-based facility makes more sense. Even a town-wide residential compost program may be prohibited currently under the DEP agreement.

Laura met an individual over the holidays who is interested in a private commercial composting enterprise. There would be a lot of support from RREC and DPW for that. Tess mentioned that there are a couple of towns which have curbside composting, with funds from Sustainable Materials Recovery Grant (state). She will provide contact info for us to follow up with, to see what the arrangements. Meantime, Eric will pin down the DEP agreement we have currently, and will talk to the DEP contact we met at the Compost Network meeting. BOHealth will likely need to be involved with any composting regs.

Eric reported that the DPW is undergoing a review of the flow at the Transfer Station. They are going to re-arrange it to make it more efficient, which may free up additional space for greater composting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30.