

Minutes of the Recycling and Renewable Energy Committee Meeting held April 20, 2017 in Caucus Hall, Provincetown Town Hall, 260 Commercial St., Provincetown, MA.

Meeting called to order at 10:05. Members present: Lydia Hamnquist, Jen Rumpza, Laura Ludwig, Maureen Travis. Members excused: Tess Knowles, Elise Cozzi. Staff present: none.

Minutes from 3/21 were approved as is; minutes from 4/12 were approved after slight corrections were made.

Sidewalk Buttlers: The Banner ran our press release (4/20/17) which coincided with the installation of all 14 units this week. Peter Attansio at Buildings & Grounds installed them at these locations:

3 units at Town Hall, Commercial Street

1 unit at Town Hall, Ryder Street

2 units at MPL restrooms (ladies and mens sides)

2 units at Lopes Square

1 unit at MPL walk thru near MacMillian

1 unit at MPL beach entrance near Moby Mat

1 unit at Fishermans Park

1 unit at Library

1 unit at Tourism

1 unit at Harbor Masters Office

As planned, the butts will be collected by the trash crews and stored at the Highway Dept until they reach critical mass, and then be picked up by Terra Cycle for recycling. The committee is tremendously grateful for the assistance from DPW and Highway Department in getting this off the ground.

Firehouse: for Earth Day we'd like to have some information about our initiatives during good weather over this weekend. We will have bags, Sidewalk Buttler fliers, Hazardous Waste collection info, etc.

Composting Network: Tess and Lydia attended the CC CN this week. They are working on a network website which Tess will help with. Elspeth Hay is working in Wellfleet to set up a commercial composting site, and we are interested in combining efforts for a tri-town composting system. Laura suggested that representatives from the three towns have a meeting on this to report back to the Network. Jen suggested that we expand it to a more regional conversation, and include Eastham.

We discussed whether it would be possible to pass a composting bylaw, to require commercial composting. One idea to encourage waste reduction is to highlight businesses who are "green", A Green Wall of Fame. Laura cautioned that this will be a big project and encouraged our committee to work together w/ the initiatives at Center for Coastal Studies who are working w/ at least two businesses in town on plastic reduction. Jen suggested a direct connection at points-of-entry – ferries, front desks at hotels, buses, taxi companies, parking kiosks – to inform of our recycling and plastic reduction ideas. She will reach out to Jay Critchley and Tony Fuccillo about our ideas, and Lydia will talk to Candy at the Chamber, so we will report back on all these efforts.

Plastic bags: there are still stores in town who distribute thin-film plastic bags. Lydia will give a list of scofflaws to the new codes enforcement officer.

Bottle filling stations: Chamber of Commerce gave us \$400 toward a filling station. Laura will generate a thank you letter for their generosity. We need to work with DPW to get one installed. With Eric no longer here, we will work with Sherry to determine the best way. Jen proposed we investigate the re-installation of a historically existing water bubbler as a filling station in the lobby of Town Hall. Maureen seconded the motion and all were in favor.

After our last meeting we asked David Gardner how to best increase our committee's budget so that we wouldn't have to apply for grant funding to acquire other bottle filling stations. He recommended requesting an increase from the town. We will find out the next steps toward that end.

Next meeting tentatively scheduled for Thursday, May 4, 10am in Caucus Hall (or Fire House).

Meeting adjourned at 11:15am.