

Minutes of the May 4, 2017 Recycling and Renewable Energy Commission

Meeting called to order [at 10am](#)

In attendance: Tess, Lydia, Jen, Maureen and Luke Pryjma coming in to talk about compost.

Luke: wants to know if we are trying to get the town to compost.

Lydia: we cannot tell restaurants what to do, we are limited, but we are trying to get the school and town orgs to compost

Tess: Wellfleet is running a town program and tried composting with Macs, but the location caused a lot of complications, so they looked at the DPW but there was a lot of resistance.

Lydia: 20 years ago the town distributed compost bins and tried to get people involved. People still use them. Rich Waldo and B-street garden says there is no room for town composting so we need to get people individually to do it at their homes.

Luke: Visited composting pile at transfer station and wants to know why they don't take food. Afraid of rodents, plus they don't have space. Also, managing the compost is important because food needs to be dealt with and 6 mos. ago there was a fire.

Luke: He thinks running a compost business could be profitable. Carl Hammer runs one in New Hampshire and it's the most sought after compost on the East Coast.

Maureen: There's money to be made.

Luke: Don't know if DPW would allow a private person to start something? Because a private entity might be more motivated.

Lydia: The DPW needs to hire an assistant director and would need to have that before we could even talk about it.

Luke: There is a super amount of compost that is created in summer so you would need a lot of brown material to meet the demand of the food.

Lydia: Cape Cod Composting Network next meeting is [on 5/30](#)

Tess: The biggest issue is space. Maybe rent space? Maybe in Truro or Wellfleet? Maybe we could encourage restaurants to compost because costs would be down.

Lydia: Maybe we should talk to Roderick because his business is the one that might be most affected.

Lydia moved to approve, Jen 2nd, All approved minutes from April 20. Unanimous.

Lydia: move to vote on whether we will ask the DPW the exact pricing option for electronics recycling. Maureen 2nd, all in favor. Unanimous.

Lydia: Jay Gurewitsch has submitted an application for committee membership. Lydia motions that we accept application. Tess 2nds. All in favor. Unanimous.

Sidewalk Buttlers

Lydia: Businesses can sponsor the Buttlers and town will install and collect butts. May not be able to put logo on them...they may have to all look the same.

Maureen: Guy at Tedeschi would like to have recycling barrel near his property.

Lydia: Private property needs to be responsible for their own recycling.

Jen: The problem is you're asking taxpayers to pay for the recycling of private business.

Lydia: There is a need for a town one there, if we can find town property to put it on.

Jen: Regarding need for East End trash barrels, have we ever gotten resistance.

Maureen: There used to be one near Devon's but that is not there anymore.

Lydia: Wait until summer starts there might be more put out. I don't want to assume no one in the DPW has thought about this. Again, where are you going to put them?

Jen: Metal baskets that hang on posts?

Lydia: People complain, but I will mention it to Rich.

Jen: Maybe there could be a negotiation with non-profits, like the use of bathrooms.

Maureen: Anyone else having any luck selling Buttler? Thought the church might want one.

Jen: Talked to Loic at Canteen and he was concerned that it would draw people to smoke there. He would be willing to donate money to buy one. Maybe he would try one on his property and if it drew people to smoking then he would donate it.

Tess: Has anyone commented on how small they are?

Lydia: Think about how small a butt is.

Jen: I think they hold 400 butts.

Lydia: I want to ask Highway if they've emptied any yet.

Jen: Why is there a lock on them? Maybe to keep people from emptying them out?

Email from Elise about putting information, like 3x5 notecards that we could hand out to tourists to hand out?

Jen: I feel like it creates more waste.

Lydia: Had an idea that we could create flyers for people who sell cigarettes so they can tell customers.

Tess: Unlikely they'll pass them out, but maybe ask people who sell them to have Buttler on the property.

Lydia: I only had 3 places to ask.

Jen: I left one at Sage, Snip and Canteen.

Lydia: I am giving them to Ben from Whalers Wharf and the Aquarium Mall. Vinny would be a good person to contact from Adams. Donald said that would be great but he's out right now.

Jen: I could ask Jen Cabral to talk to A-House. I need to talk to Jingles about Buttlers for all his businesses.

Enforcement of plastic bag ban

Lydia: people come in with plastic bags all the time and I ask people where they got it. It's usually a restaurant. We've given them two years and people are still handing them out. Written into by-law is 1st, 2nd and 3rd offense. Police aren't going to do it, so we have two options. One is the conservation person. Lydia introduced self and told him part of his job is going to be enforcement of this and he agreed. But then she got an email that told him it's not his job. Asked Laura (assistant to the health agent) and it turns out they're hiring someone else for enforcement.

Sherry Prada is going to be the new liaison (unofficial) and will probably start attending meetings after they hire an assistant director. She will be the perfect person for us. We want to be welcoming and easy and not put pressure on the new liaison. We need to update the website about the hazardous waste drop off days being up-to-date on the website. Lydia will talk to Lynn Martin.

Water station funding:

Lydia found out what companies they bought the fountains from and we have lots of options. We need to look at space and decide what options are the best. Get it down to two or three options and then decide how to raise money for them.

Lydia: We could go before town to ask for an increase for one year only for the cost of the water bottle filling stations. Need to find out when things need to be in to get things on the budget. We will worry about that for fall town meeting.

We want to get at least one paid for and installed now. Try to get the one in town hall first. Have to go in front of the Historical Commission (Susan Avellar?). We should ask her which one they prefer.

Jen: How much \$\$ do we have?

Lydia: We have \$1100 in gift fund. Add to our regular budget and we can afford.

Jen: I will talk to Susan and Historical Commission soon.

Next meeting: [Wednesday, May 17th 10am](#)

Will be talking about water stations, composting and Buttlers

Lydia moved to adjourn [at 11:05](#), Tess 2nds all approved. Adjourned.