

Minutes of the Recycling and Renewable Energy Committee held on Friday, July 14, 2017 in the Judge Welsh Room at Town Hall, 260 Commercial St., Provincetown, MA 02657

Meeting called to order 9:00am

Members present: Laura Ludwig , Lydia Hamnquist, Elise Cozzi, Jay Gurewitsch; members excused: Tess Knowles, Maureen Travis, Jen Rumpza;

Staff present: Steve Wlodkowski, Deputy Director of DPW, Tim Famulare, Conservation Agent.

Agenda:

1. Approve minutes
2. DPW rep, Steve Wlodkowski
3. Barrel painting
4. CCCN – Composting
5. Water station installation and signage
6. OCEC - Outer Cape Energy Comm.
7. CVEC - Cape and Vineyard Electric Cooperative
8. Drain markers

Minutes for June 14 & June 28 were reviewed - Elise moved to approve and Jay seconded. All were in favor and minutes were approved.

Steve informed us that Sherry Prada will be our designated staff liaison with DPW moving forward. We will try to lock in a specific day/time for our meetings so that it will be easier for all to schedule. Every other Wednesday at 9am is what we will shoot for.

Steve gave us an update on electronics recycling. Materials are often dealt with at two extremes: sent overseas, or processed responsibly domestically. Currently our vendor doesn't follow strict guidelines and we would like to locate a responsible processor. There are two certified recyclers in Mass, and one will travel to Provincetown. Steve will follow up with them to see if the pricing structure would allow us to switch vendors. Jay can speak with the OCEC regarding e-recycling to see what others are doing.

Laura asked him about industrial composting. Discussion explored municipal vs. private facilities, anaerobic digesters, food waste v. yard waste, siting, regional efforts, and Steve's experience with composting yard waste in Connecticut. We also discussed alternative management schemes, such as job opportunities.

Sidewalk Buttlers update – they are not all installed yet. Laura will follow up with Tony to ensure they get installed soon, at which point we will issue a big press release.

Barrel painting update – Jen was not in attendance so we’ll get updated at a later date.

Bottle filling stations – Lydia and the town’s plumber has identified the appropriate bottle filling station for installation at the Chamber of Commerce. An invoice was secured and funds are encumbered for this purpose. Installation will take place this summer. Jay will get an update from the FinCom regarding our request for additional funding. We will be attending the BOS meeting on July 24th to request the funds formally.

OCEC – Jay and Lydia provided background info about Provincetown’s participation in the Solarize MA program, and its next phase through the OCEC.

CVEC – Liz Argo, the head of CVEC, will be meeting with Lydia on Monday to discuss where things stand and bring her up to speed on being the town’s CVEC rep. Lydia will ask whether the town as a municipality has maxed out its energy credits, and what the designation of a Green Community is with respect to Provincetown. Tim has been reviewing our Green Community status with reps from Cape Light Compact and Division of Energy Resources to catch up with reporting and projections for future proposals.

We reviewed the document “Introduction to the Outer Cape Solarize Plus Program” which Jay generated via Wellfleet’s Energy Committee. Timeline, incentives, staff, volunteer and OCEC roles, and BOS requirements for participation in Solarize Plus program were clarified.

Elise contacted area trash and recyclables collectors to see whether they separate the recycling from the trash before disposal. Nauset sends all their waste and recycling to ABC Disposal; Laura suspects that MSW is landfilled and is not sure whether they separate out recycling. Rodericks doesn’t separate trash from recycling. Devita requires separation when towns mandate it, and discusses w/ the customer to prevent commingling. Frasier separates where the towns mandate but doesn’t require separation if customer doesn’t do it.

Plastic bags - We will discuss our idea of recognizing local establishments which have complied with the town’s plastic bag bylaw at our next meeting.

Next meeting tentatively scheduled WEDNESDAY August 2 at 9:00am.
Meeting adjourned at 10:40am.