

Recycling and Renewable Energy Committee Minutes
13 September 2017
Town Hall Caucus Room
Provincetown, MA

Meeting called to order at 9:00am.

Members present: Laura Ludwig, Tess Knowles, Jen Rumpza, Lydia Hamnquist, Jay Gurewitsch, Elise Cozzi. Members excused: Maureen Travis. Staff: Sherry Prada, DPW.

Agenda:

- - DPW
 - > - Buttlers
 - > - Solarize Plus
 - > - Composting
 - > - information distribution
- > - new business

Minutes - Elise moved to approve the minutes from 8/30. Lydia seconded as amended and all were in favor.

DPW updates:

- Bottle filling station signage – Sherry reported that signs can go up on the buildings where the stations are installed (Town Hall, Fire Station, MPL). A signed permit would be necessary. She will submit a permit for the MPL but will just do a laminated (temporary) sign at the Fire Station.

- Plastic bag enforcement – Nicolai will be leaving his position soon. Sherry will check with Morgan as to who will have the authority to enforce the plastic bag bylaw.

- Public restrooms at 91A Commercial – Sherry visited the site with John Santos and all is in compliance as far as DPW is concerned.. There is a “Restroom” sign painted on the street and on the side of the building.

- Cooperative Extension – Kari Purcell asked DPW for details on activities at transfer station and/or MSW. She will attend our meeting on 9/27 to present on funding opportunities.

- Storm drain signs – Lydia has installed around 20 of them, and Sherry will check w/ B&G to see whether they can install the remaining plaques.

Composting - Tess checked in w/ Kari re funding for rain barrels and composting equipment. There is funding potentially thru MA DEP for townwide curbside compost and/or recycling collection (\$20/cart, max \$100k via reimbursement grant). For residents, funds are available for towns to buy certain equipment to enhance diversion and recovery programs (backyard composting, water collection).

Sherry always applies for Section 10 and Section 1 funds thru DEP and is waiting to hear back for next season. Those funds have helped DPW purchase recycling blue bins. She sends letters to residents re the recycling stickers used on 32-gal bins. She said it has become a very popular way for residents to recycle. Jay recommended that she point out to residents that the cost of the barrels and stickers is subsidized thru state grant funding so that the cost is greatly reduced for residents.

Tess reported that the town of Hamilton received DEP funds for a curbside composting program that contracts with a commercial farm. It could be a good model for the three outer cape towns.

Discussion ensued on possible locations for a compost system, including park land, route 6 median, or a centralized location mid-Cape. The CC Composting Network has technically disbanded but regional participants may continue the effort to collaborate.

Outreach - Lydia suggested tapping into local organizations like COA, the school, and social media to publicize Solarize Plus and our other initiatives. PTV and WOMR are also good outlets, and Jay plans to ask David Panagore to highlight the solar program on his radio show. A press release will go to the Banner and other outlets.

Solarize Plus – All paperwork is submitted and OCEC will meet next week to review the program before sending it all to the state. It's important to gather contact info of potentially interested businesses and individuals. Jay reported that he's had no luck getting town organizations to sign on in support of the program, but he will follow up with more direct contact now that the summer season is waning, particularly the Chamber and PBG. Important to get names and emails of anyone interested. We will try to get people to sign up at the STM tonight and also at the CCS beach cleanup on Saturday.

FY18 budget – Sherry will contact Laura for brief but specific description of the budget increase request, to purchase additional filling stations and Buttlers.

New Business –

A recent Facebook thread concerned banning all plastics and straws in particular. There is a grant opportunity through CARE for the Cape & Islands that this committee will apply for to fund additional water bottle filling stations in town properties. We will focus on five locations, possibly VMCC gym, school gym, additional one at the school, library, PAAM restrooms (do they have one already?), VSB, Community Commons building on Bradford, etc.

Next meeting tentatively scheduled WEDNESDAY September 27 at 9:00am.

Elise moved to adjourn. Jay seconded and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:29am.