

Recycling and Renewable Energy Committee Minutes
Wednesday November 8, 2017
Judge Welsh Room, Town Hall
260 Commercial St., Provincetown, Ma

Present: Lydia, Laura, Elise, Jay, Jen and Sherry Prada Called to order at 9am by Lydia Lydia moves to approve minutes, Laura seconded, all in favor.

DPW: Sherry: Rich Waldo previewed additional budget (\$7200) request and notices we are asking for a lot of money but that we are having our ducks in a row and getting a lot done.

Tess K., arrives at 9:08am

Appointments set at beginning of Dec. with Rich as he will be out for a few weeks after. Sherry will be doing what she can to get the budget approved to get the water bottle filling stations that we need/want.

Sherry: looking into how much land for composting.

Composting: Tess:

Met with Elspeth Hay, started composting pilot program, collaborated with restaurants and farms. Somewhat successful but there were problems with the farms, weren't so happy with it. Elspeth talked to Wellfleet DPW, and got some pushback.

Next step was talking to Kari and said that five other towns are already composting. They are contracting with a farm (Watts in Sandwich) and they are still accepting vendors. They have large bins where residents can drop off compost and farm comes and picks them up...it's fairly small scale now, but it can grow. Through a small grant they were able to purchase bins for composting. If we apply for grants we could get bins, signage, counter-top bins. Tess wants to talk to more people and see how they feel about the program in their communities. Laura and Sherry suggested a closer farm. Bins are like large garden bins. Farms could come every couple weeks. If the outer cape could apply at the same time maybe the transportation of the waste could be combined. We could potentially get compost back for needs. This is for household compost, not restaurant. It could be a start for a bigger program down the road.

Sherry: Truro hasn't applied for anything that she knows of. Wellfleet is interested. Eastham is very organized and could be on board.

Jay: There are Truro reps for outer cape energy committee. Solarize MA is organized and the outer cape is united around that collaborating is already happening.

Composting at B-Street garden got out of hand and has stopped.

Laura: talk to farms and invite them to meetings and let them know we'd be looking for contacts. Also bring it up with B-Street garden again and get information. Let the gardeners know this is in progress.

Lydia: getting as much info out there to as many people who might want to get involved is imperative.

Jay: email is best way.

Sherry has Perry Farm contact, but maybe not first meeting. Tess and Sherry will go to meeting in Dec and get more information about what is available and then go from there. But wouldn't hurt to contact and get the idea in their heads.

Jay: would be smart to get someone from Truro at the first meeting.

Tess: there is a lot of money in compost. There is a company Garbage to Garden in Maine that has grown greatly..

Jay: J & E Produce has a huge compost pile. May start to do renovation and we could suggest a growth to business.

Tess: If anyone is interested Recycling Works can send a consultant out so local businesses who want to get involved can get a free consultation.

Jay: Go talk to Bobby Jr. at J & E

Laura: The humpback whale was used in a composting situation where the compost cleaned the bones. Maybe we can reach out and find more information about that.

Tess: B-Street garden, i believe the conservation commission owns the land so it probably wouldn't fly to start it there.

Jay: tell B-Street people that we're working on a program for the transfer station. Province landing has a small garden and composting.

Lydia: We have a huge spinning composter at the Center for Coastal Studies that works like a charm. It's insulated and expensive.

Solarize MA program

Jay: MASS CEC has allowed us to issue an RFP before the project is approved. Hoping for the day after the project is approved that we can choose an installer. Wellfleet and Truro has happened and it's very successful. Lots of non-profits are getting involved.

Wednesday, Nov 15 in Provincetown at 6:30pm at the Center for Coastal Studies is the Solarize MA information meeting. About 100 residential contracts signed up. And many non-profits.

Solar City is not interested in bidding so no back-up batteries.

Katy Ward meeting: Jay and Laura

Wrote an article about solarize ma in Wellfleet so they're just going to mention the meeting in an article about the bag ban article (celebrating those who have abided and to get the word out that we will be enforcing it starting January 1, 2018).

Who will be enforcing? Talk to David Gardner. Start with formal letter. It's fair for us to ask town hall how that will be enforced so that it can be communicated.

Lydia: Nicolai went around town and talked to people. If there are other enforcement agents that go around then someone should be given that task. When people go to get their licenses there is a big sign that explains the law. Have asked Annie if when she's doing her inspections...

Jay and Laura: we need something more official.

Jay: going to joint session of BOS and VSB next Monday 11/13, and he can address this: iPads in meeting rooms, going paperless and how to enforce the bag ban.

If we can address those who are not complying then we can get a smaller mill and also address Styrofoam in the form of take out containers.

Jay: polystyrene is used everywhere. banning that isn't realistic.

Laura: Prime letter of support. Proposal to Marine at NOAA. Plastic Reduction in the Marine Environment. Laura would like us to write a letter of support. Working with take-outs, restaurants, bars to create a catalog and information meeting or packet.

Jay makes a motion that we support this proposal and write a letter. Lydia 2nds it. All approved. Talking about recycling flyer: some changes need to be made. We could put out different modes of communicating. We need more visuals. Make changes on flyer for now and by June when we get some funding we can do something more engaging.

Lydia: we need a link to information on the town website.

Lydia makes motion to adjourn, Tess 2nds all in favor: 10:24am.