

# Recycling and Renewable Energy Committee

Minutes from 14 November 2007, 6pm, Council on Aging

**Attendance:** Michael Leger, Lee Bartell, Ghee Patrick, Jim Denietolis, Conny Hatch, Amy Germain

**Minutes:** Approved as written

**Presentation:** Liz Argo, SolarWrights Massachusetts Regional Manager, based in Orleans, gave us a powerpoint presentation of both solar and wind systems. The Gulls Nest affordable housing, just about ready off of Rt. 6, now has its solar panels on the roof, which'll provide 3/4 of the electric energy needs of the 12 units. How cool is that? Through Massachusetts Technical Collaborative, there are SRIs, which is Small Renewables Initiative, funded, if one applies for it, it's that easy; for the LORI, or Large Onsite Renewables Initiative, one has to jump through a bunch of hoops, and there's no guarantee at all that it will get funded. If we apply the town will get a grant for \$50,000 toward solar or wind energy. A solar project, on a town building, will run us about \$50,000, so that the total cost of the project, while \$100,000, only cost us half that. If we applied the \$50,000 grant to wind power, our cost would only be \$10-30,000. Getting \$50,000 given to us for either energy, solar or wind, is quite an incentive. We spoke of the Transfer Station, the Airport, the Elementary School as possible sites. Liz will check them out for us. We had a long discussion with many details; suffice it to say that we're excited about this. Amy moved that we develop a wind and/or solar energy proposal for the warrant for spring Town Meeting. Michael seconded it, and it was a unanimous vote. We'll bring this info to our January 14th meeting with the Selectboard.

**Paperless Town Hall:** Jim reported that there are now recycling bins in all offices and meeting rooms. Amy will get back to work on the paperless issue.

**Committee:** We need new members. Conny has decided to not join us after all, due to time constraints. Anna may still be willing to be an alternative, but we really need to find some new folks.

**Race Point Windmill:** It's been taken down for the winter, so it'll be spring when we hope to have a trip out there, with it being part of PTV's program on us.

**Website:** Ghee pointed out how fabulous the Chatham Recycling website is: [www.chathamrecycles.org](http://www.chathamrecycles.org) and yes, Ghee, you're right. On it, they have a lot of recycling info from [www.recycling-revolution.com](http://www.recycling-revolution.com), which could be our "Did you know" in the Banner. I just printed out 3 pages of info that's totally appropriate for our needs. And yes, it would be wonderful if we had such a website, all part of making recycling easier and more fun for people.

**Paper Recycling Conference:** Jim went to this, and said that it's a work in progress.

**Grant:** Mike checked with Edith De Mello, but there's no news yet about our

## **Municipal Sustainability Grant.**

**Funding:** Mike sent a letter to both Town Manager Sharon Lynn and DPW Chair David Guertin, asking for the \$2000 that used to be the Recycling Committee budget, be reinstated.

**The Banner:** Lee spoke with Sally at the Banner, asking for our "Did you know. . .?" and she said yes, that would be OK. She wants to see samples of what we want, which Lee will bring to our next meeting.

**Transfer Station:** Sandy told Lee that after Town Meeting, she'll get together to discuss the signage for the road up to the TS. Lee would love to paint the Swap Shop building, inside and out, and to arrange with the staff there to accept what folks bring, including what Lisa brings from Ruthie's Boutique, and to leave it for a while, not throwing stuff out daily. We want to see trees, paint, goods, and smiles up on that hill.

**Certificates:** After a discussion, it was decided to make the presentation to DeVita and Roderick at the Transfer Station on Wednesday, 12 December, the late morning or early afternoon of our next meeting date. Mike will find out the best time for all to gather. Amy will make the certificates, get them to Jim, and we'll all stop by his office to sign them. Jim will see if Sandy and Dave from the DPW, and Brian from the Health Dept. will sign them, too. Once a time is known, Lee will call the Banner to make sure that they cover it.

**Recycling Data:** Jim gave us a printout that showed recycling statistics from July through September, and it's a huge success. We've either actually saved money, or just as well, didn't need to spend it, both resulting in a savings to town.

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, 12 December 2007, 6pm, don't know where yet.

## **NOTE:**

**Our January meeting will be one week early, Wednesday, 9 January 2008, 6pm, somewhere, to prepare for our meeting with the Selectboard on Monday, January 14th, time tba.**

Minutes by Lee

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"...let us promise to make peace not just a priority, but a passion.  
Let us pledge to do more, wherever we are in whatever way we can,

to make every day a day of peace." Ban Ki Moon, UN Secretary-General