

## **Regular Meeting Minutes**

### **Tiverton Recycling/landfill Committee**

**Thursday October 4, 2012**

**Town Hall, 343 Highland Road**

**Members present: Stephen Berlucchi, Steven Rys, Richard Guimond, Jay Lambert,**

**Public: Joseph Sousa**

- **Committee welcomed Dan Porrazzo of American Capital Energy a leading independent large scale solar photovoltaic system integrator and project developer. Dan began by explaining what his company is capable of doing with designing, sourcing and constructing commercial scale projects. He showed committee many examples of projects that his company has been involved with throughout the country. Dan explained how photovoltaic work and the many options available along with financing and tax investment credits the town might be able to take advantage of in the future. The committee focus on developing a plan for the landfill for potential solar photovoltaic development was sidetracked by Dan explanation that it would be at least 15 years after landfill closes before any development could possibility take place. Dan suggested town look at other sites such as town buildings or town owned land that might be suitable for this type of development. Members began grilling Dan with questions on warranties, sighting issues and financing options. Some facts about solar systems the committee learned about are that 4 acres of land is necessary per megawatt of electricity produced. One Megawatt of electricity will supply roughly 300 homes. Most modules that our used in large scale developments are manufactured in China. Investment tax credits will expire in 2015. The cost of electricity from photovoltaic system is about \$3 a watt. Technology advances in modules design have reduced cost of modules as well as increased reliability. Dan explained that wind turbines have a build in 20% maintenance down time due to moving part that needs to be replaced over time. Solar systems maintenance with no moving parts is generally just brush cutting or replacement of broken modules due to vandalizing of panels. Dan offered that he is an aware of a solar system that has been in operation from the Carter administration.**
- **Phil Hadley from Anaerobic digestion solutions presented his companies potential in helping the town reduce the amount of trash and explaining how he could extend the landfills life. His company is educational based to teach a different method then just land filling. His proposal would require .5 acres of land. The anaerobic digester would be in a sealed building emitting no odors. The methane gas would be trucked off site. The byproduct would be compost and could be sold to local farmers. The key to the**

proposal would be to educate residents to separate food waste from none organic trash. Yard waste would also be used in the digester. This would be difficult to expect residents to sort food waste from other trash. S. Berlucchi said that the amount of trash generated by town would not be enough to justify operation without bringing in additional material from other sources. Committee recommended Phil look at a private venture seeking regional supply for materials to compost. Steve said he could supply data with how much yard waste and town trash town produces and is willing to work with Phil with some options for saving money for town. Jay Lambert suggested developing plan with dollar amount for proposal to Town Council.

- **Approved Meeting Minutes for May 31,**
- **S. Berlucchi offered a number of suggestions for use of RIRRC profit sharing money. RIRRC has suggested that communities used this money to improve recycling programs. Committee will continue to investigate options**
- **Lee market in Westport was added to vendor list. S. Berlucchi is looking for bag vendor in east end of town after Hess dropped from program. There is also a need for more vendors in south end of town.**
- **S. Berlucchi began investigating why recycling tonnage began declining after single stream began in June. Patriot disposal was notified and began to look into matter. After some investigation Patriot determined that weight scale measurements for its trucks needed to be updated due modifications Patriot made to its trucks in response to single stream program. It was determined that 1500 lbs loss per truck in each trip to Johnston over several months. S Berlucchi will seek reimbursement from Patriot or receive credit from RIRRC for loss of revenue.**

**Note: On October 15, RIRRC credited Tiverton 124 tons for recycling**

**Adjournment**

**Minutes prepared by Steven P Rys**

