

# Waltham Energy Action Committee

Thursday 7pm, August 14, 2014  
Public Meeting Room, Government Center, 119 School St.  
Minutes

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## Members Present:

Kathy Randel, Leo Keightley, Eileen Zubrowski, Melissa Downes, Jim Mniece, Amy Gortler, Jacob Miller, Beth MacBlane

## Others Present:

Bob Ferrone  
Mike Holmquist (Masters in architecture from Wentworth)

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agenda in **blue**

**Ms. Randel called the meeting to order at 7PM.**

## Welcome

The Committee and Mike Holmquist introduced themselves

## July Minutes - Kathy

The July minutes were approved unanimously with the following corrections:

- Remove formatting style examples
- 3 Typographical errors noted by Eileen

Leo will check if the May minutes are approved.

Approval of June minutes is tabled.

## Ice rink update – Leo and Jacob

- Leo said that the Rink Committee had decided upon the MacLaughlin Management & Design upgrade option that uses multiple Cube compressors.
- Jacob reviewed his “Zamboni melt pit” energy savings calculations. He explained that when outdoor temperatures are above freezing, it is more efficient for the rink ice chillers to dump heat into ice (that the Zamboni scrapes off the rink) than to dump it into the warmer air.

## Heat Pumps and Next Step Living - Eileen

- NSL provided the following numbers update. (solar installations are actually 17 by this meeting).

	March	August
Home Energy Assessments	144	638
Weatherization Projects	48	203
Solar Installation	5	10
DMS* Installations	-	17 (DMS: see last bullet this section)

- NSL has committed to do another Solar outreach this year. Eileen passed out a sheet listing “Solar Challenge 2014 Campaign Components”
- Kathy mentioned a few events at which NSL may want to have a table.
- Waltham High School (WHS) is doing a “Sustainable Energy Education Drive:” Eileen passed

around a flier. NSL is partnering with WHS in encouraging parents to schedule home energy audits.

- NSL is marketing Ductless Mini-Splits (DMS). These are electrically powered heat pump based heating/cooling systems that use small wall or ceiling mounted heat exchangers “registers” to heat and cool individual rooms. Jacob mentioned that throughout year, heat pump based heating should be cheaper to operate than oil, but is not sure about gas.
- Malcolm Bliss is the new liaison from Next Step Living. He will be spearheading the fall campaign in Waltham for solar, energy audits and heat pumps.

### **Green Communities - Kathy**

There are no updates regarding progress on ongoing zoning issues.

### **Priorities and Goals (continued from last meeting) - Kathy**

- Kathy led brainstorming:
- She reviewed votes for potential WEAC projects (listed in a document “WEAC Brainstorm July 2014.docx” circulated by email).
- Bob suggested we consider synergy with energy committees of other towns.
- Leo mentioned the Bentley Office of Sustainability as a local University resource.
- Kathy suggested we keep all items with more than 1 vote and make them ongoing WEAC projects.
- Kathy noted that Waltham Day is on Sep-20 and asked if the Committee wants to staff a table. The Committee said yes. Kathy will put in a reservation for WEAC for the event.

### **Additioinal items:**

#### 2013-2014 Accomplishments – Kathy

- Kathy asked if the list of accomplishments circulated by email “WEAC Efforts and Accomplishments 2013-2014.docx” looked OK and members indicated they are basically OK. Amy said we should check Sagewell numbers.
- Kathy will send accomplishments to the Mayor. She then asked if we should also send the list to councillors and the answer was yes.
- Beth asked if we should put the list on the WEAC website and in the newspaper. Kathy requested that Beth make the list into a press release.

#### Mothers out front (Amy)

- Amy reviewed some activities of Mothers Out Front.org. They are looking for political traction. Some people want to set up a Mothers Out Front group in Waltham. Possibly WEAC can back their efforts. Amy is going to host a house party. The fundamental issue for Mothers Out Front is climate change.

Kathy mentioned the public input questionnaire from the Waltham Planning Dept. and encouraged everyone to fill out and submit one.

HEET is looking into methane leaks (natural gas). Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas. A presentation is coming up and possibly someone can go: Sep-30 6-8 pm Cambridge. Melissa will try to go.

Inquiry about idling:

There is a state law, but it is not enforced in many communities, including Waltham. Maybe we can spend some WEAC budget on signage to discourage idling. Eileen said recycling tried putting signs all over the place, but there was not much effect.

**Closing**

Next Meeting – September 11, 2014 - Public Meeting Room, Government Center, 119 School St.  
The committee adjourned at 9:00 PM.