

Waltham Energy Action Committee

Thursday 7pm, January 17, 2013

Public Meeting Room, Government Center, 119 School St.

Minutes

Members Present:

Kathy Randel, Leo Keightley, Eileen Zubrowski, Melissa Downes, Councillor Stephen Rourke

Others Present:

Riley Rodgers, Bentley (one of Rick Oches (Class: Science of Sustainability))

Danielle Einhorn, Brandeis Intern Waltham Recycling

Amy Gortler

agenda in [blue](#)

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

Welcome

Introductions for visitors

[Accept December minutes – Kathy](#)

All members had not reviewed Dec. minutes so no action taken.

[Update on Government Center and City Hall building energy efficiency project – Kathy](#)

Kathy said she talked with Joe Pedula about energy audits for Govt. Center and City Hall and Joe said to proceed. Kathy will talk with Don Cusano tomorrow.

[Newsletter, web page, and PV Press Release Update - Kathy](#)

- Regarding PVpress: The Mayor forwarded a press release to Pat Azadi (City Law Dept.) and Tim Kelly for review.
- The WEAC website still needs some work. Most of it is up to date. Quick links need some work.
- The Bentley student group that is helping WEAC on its web presence suggested email is better than Facebook for reaching people most likely to be in a position to respond to WEAC initiatives. The site mailchimp.com was identified as an example of available resources for organizing newsletters for email distribution. Kathy hasn't figured out how often newsletters might be distributed. An initial list of recipients could be taken from the 2011 Forum, Farmers' Market outreach contacts, and WEAC meeting visitors.
Riley said mailchimp is easy to use and for receivers, easy to unsubscribe.
- Stephen suggested adding City Councillors as newsletter recipients.

[Northeast Elementary School update - Amy](#)

- There is no update on the initiative with Martha Harney (Science Coordinator). Amy provided a list of suggested classes, but has not heard back.
- Amy brought up a new project. Sagewell (sagewell.com) has taken infrared images, during cold weather, of houses in Boston area towns and cities, including Waltham. Owners can then be contacted and offered further audit/upgrade follow up with needs identified by the imaging used as

both incentive and basis for further analysis.

Belmont is an example in which about 1000 imaged homes were contacted, working through Belmont Energy Committee. 500 so far, have responded. Homeowners don't pay for the imaging. 90% of Waltham is already photographed and can contact Sagewell directly to request a no-cost in-home energy assessment. Amy going to look more into details of the program.

- Eileen mentioned concern over possible conflict of interest regarding the Sagewell program. The fact that the Belmont Energy Committee is involved indicates it's working well.
- Amy asked if WEAC can publicize the Sagewell program.
- In discussion it was proposed that as long as the process is clearly outlined, then WEAC involvement is ok. Vendors, shouldn't pester people, for example. Some remaining questions: How do the referrals follow up and make more measurements? How is Sagewell paid?
- Amy will talk to Roger Colebert (Belmont Energy Committee).

Waltham Bicycle Committee Meeting update – Eileen

- The Waltham Bicycle Committee (WBC) has been busy. There was a meeting in December at Adobe. About 40 people attended. There was a good x section of interests represented: Adobe, for example wants to attract technical college graduates (such as MIT students). Those potential and existing employees want to use bicycles for commuting and for mobility once here: getting around at lunch (possibly in Waltham, for instance).
- John Allen will setup the next WBC meeting.
- There is a Waltham Bicyclist and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (sub committee of the WBC).
 - One participant, Laureal Carpenter, is leading a project to create a map by the end of 2013, showing all bike and pedestrian friendly ways in Waltham. Cycling, and walking related information will be included.
 - There will be a Jan-24 meeting in the Library Trustees Meeting Room.
 - Make Garvin (Traffic Engineer) will attend with Lisa Gerlach (Assistant to Traffic Engineer).

Waltham Traffic Commission Meeting Update – Leo

Leo, and other WEAC members attended a Traffic Commission meeting on 19-Dec-'12 . One item on the agenda was 3 proposals for bike lanes on South, Moody, Winter, Bacon, and Beaver streets and Totten Pond Road.

- The Commission agreed upon a compromise proposal made by Traffic Engineer, J. Michael Garvin for bike lanes and signs on Totten Pond Road and Winter Street and Share The Road markings and signs on South and Beaver Streets.
- Leo has posted, on the WEAC Google site, HTML copies of articles concerning this meeting from the Waltham Patch website:

"to be discussed" - via Patch

- <http://waltham.patch.com/articles/dd-8ff43364>

after the meeting - via Patch

- <http://waltham.patch.com/articles/bikes-lanes-coming-to-two-major-waltham-roads>

Stephen suggested potential WEAC efforts to improve bicycling and walking in Waltham:

- Champion adding bike racks to City Ordinances so racks will always be considered with building and renovation projects.
- There is now a Pavement Management system for Waltham: a roads inventory with ratings. The

existing system only applies to roadways. If a sidewalk needs to be fixed it has to be where a road needs to be fixed. WEAC can champion sidewalks having their own grade system assigning priority independent of associated roadways.

Eileen added that bus stops should have priority visibility also.

- Steve noted a bus stop at the Winter Street end of Totten pond road as an example.

Kathy stated bicycles and pedestrians should be added to Tom Stanley's suggestion for a traffic study.

Waltham Complete Streets Update - Eileen

A Complete Streets workshop will be held Wed. Apr 10, 1:30 to 4:30 library auditorium. Judy Fallows has been working to get it here. Eileen asked Mike Garvin if he can contact City Dept. Heads.

Engineering, Planning, and CPW agreed on the time and will send reps. Mike suggested inviting the Police Dep. (the Police Chief is chair of Traffic Commission). Stephen suggested inviting the entire traffic commission and Kathy suggested the Mayor and Councillors.

Ice Rink update - Leo

The rink committee met on 08-Jan-'13.

- We reviewed a table showing "year 2 costs" that I developed to compare various approaches and variations within the latest geothermal/PV approach.
- We discussed possible use of a consultant to audit the Waltham rink and then develop design options based on various rink technologies and Waltham's objectives for the rink.
- Dave Amann from N-Star also attended and reviewed possible rebates and incentives. Payback to Waltham for 50% of the initial audit and design work mentioned above was one example. 100% payback would occur if Waltham implemented one of the design proposals. Other incentives were performance based. Dave suggested making performance based incentives payable to the contractor, because they are paid only to the degree that the project achieves actual energy savings.
- Waltham rink committee members noted that the audit/design would go out for bid.
- The intended next moves are to "expand" the scope of the project to include geothermal, conventional, and possibly PV technologies and work on getting the audit/design out for bid.
- It was a very satisfying and rational meeting for everyone, I think.

Stephen suggested considering "commissioning" as another way to assure and verify that performance objectives are met.

Green Communities Update – Stephen or Kathy

Stephen reviewed the GC program for Riley, including the snag regarding criteria 1 and 2.

Need: Amend zoning to list specific R&D uses (as listed in state guidelines for GC)

Closing:

Next Meeting – Thursday, February 21, 2012, 7pm-9pm - Public Meeting Room, Government Center, 119 School St.

The committee adjourned at 8:52 PM.