

Waltham Energy Action Committee

Thursday, March 13, 2014

6:30-7:00pm Newcomers

7:00-9:00pm

Public Meeting Room, Government Center, 119 School St.

Minutes

Members Present:

Kathy Randel, Leo Keightley, Eileen Zubrowski, Melissa Downes

Others Present:

Bob Ferrone

Jim Mniece

Amy Gortler

Jacob Miller

Grace Babula

Brad Baker

Beth MacBlane

agenda in [blue](#)

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

Welcome

Guests and Committee introduced themselves.

[Approve Minutes from January Meeting - Kathy](#)

Not all Committee members had read the Jan.minutes so this item was tabled until April.

[Increasing Membership/Restructuring Leadership - Kathy](#)

Kathy lead a discussion focusing on increasing membership and restructure leadership. Kathy said she is somewhat overloaded.

- Kathy proposed two alternative structures: 2 co-chairs and a vice-chairs, or 2 co-chairs.
- Jim suggested rotating chair among members.
- Jim mentioned Medford group which is very active and tied into city work
Maybe we can have someone from their group talk here . Aletia Hunt is the person.
- Brad said he would work with Kathy 1 day / week
- Work on bylaws to include co-chair concept. (kathy)

Kathy specifically asked for others to do outreach (tribune, social media,, etc.)

- Grace said she can help with outreach .. Beth offered also.
- Kathy suggested a separate meeting to decide on a possible outreach subcommittee
- Brad brought up possibility of a blog. The Waltham Patch was mentioned.

Regarding increasing WEAC voting membership, Kathy suggested that membership criteria be easier to meet.

- Eileen proposed that anyone who attends 2 meetings automatically becomes a member.

The problem of meeting quorum with too many voting members was discussed. Bob suggested changing the quorum definition.

- Jim proposed that anyone who attends 3 meetings **can** become member. If a certain number of meetings is missed then membership is removed.
- Regarding coordinating membership with the Mayor, WEAC will simply let the Mayor know (by memo) when members are added or removed.
- Kathy said she will draft possible bylaw changes specifying 3 meetings to get on and 3 contiguous missed meetings for removal.

Budget – Melissa

WEAC has \$1200.

Some money which has been spent by members should be reimbursed. For that WEAC needs receipts.

Kathy wants a vinyl WEAC banner.

Kathy wants a replacement for the plywood table display.

- Jim said he will work on the replacement display

It's budget time and we have to put in a request.

Ice Rink Update - Leo

Leo said that Nick Abruzzi, Assistant Director - Waltham Recreation Department (and manager of the Veteran's Memorial Rink) notified the committee working on rink upgrades that two facility audits have been initiated. One, conducted by the company Andelman and Lelek Engineering, will focus on more on big ticket items like compressors. The other, conducted by the State Department of Conservation and Recreation is looking more at the smaller conservation items like water and lighting. Waltham was approved for 50% off the original Andelman and Lelek Engineering audit price through the NSTAR rebate program.

Green Communities – Kathy

- On 24-February, Jacob, Leo, and Kathy discussed, with Catherine Cagle (Director, Waltham Planning Department), possible coordination with the Planning Department on a Green Communities (GC) Energy Reduction Plan (ERP).
- On 07-March, Kathy found out that the zoning change that has been passed is not sufficient. Kathy is working with various people on this.
Because of this further delay, Kathy doubts we will have time to complete the ERP for application this Fall. The Mayor asked us to not move forward on ERP until the zoning is resolved.
- The Mayor also noted there will not be any movement on WEAC's City Hall and Govt. Center HVAC audit proposal.
- Stretch Code follow-up:
Surveys are up on Survey Monkey. Kathy asked how WEAC can ask people to participate in the survey.
 - Kathy mentioned a few lists and asked Mel to inform councillors and asked Grace to broadcast on Twitter. Kathy will request a listing in the Tribune.
 - Bob may get something distributed to a West Suburban Chamber of Commerce list.

Energy Audit Outreach to 5+ Unit Buildings - Amy

- Eileen and Amy noted that at least 500 properties are involved. Eileen and Amy contacted a Massave representative saying we will send out letter explaining what can be done with 5+ Unit buildings.

The Massave representative sent Amy a draft letter applicable to NSTAR and National Grid.

- Massave is very proactive, They want to do “case studies.” Massave will do the mailings. They asked for addresses for 5+ Unit buildings and Amy sent paper (and is working on a computer file version).

Boosting Recycling in Waltham – Melissa

- Melissa reviewed a few proposed details.
- Eileen mentioned success of a wheeled cart approach in Watertown. 1 cart is for waste and 1 (or more if you want) for recycling.
- Amy mentioned Bedford has 1 barrel included in their program and participants pay for additional “bags.”

Grants - Eileen

- Eileen noted that some non profits and committees have a hired administration person. Possibly we could do this to take some of the load off Kathy.
- Kathy said she was hoping the city would hire a an energy management person. Possibly the City could get this person with a grant. Eileen wasn't sure grants can be used for ongoing expenses (like salaries).
- Kathy suggested asking the Mayor to the April meeting to discuss this.

Additional Items

- At 6:30 PM, before this WEAC meeting, newcomers: Brad, Jacob, and Beth discussed energy and Committee related topics with Kathy and Eileen.
- Eileen distributed the most recent numbers from the NSL Waltham Solar Challenge program. Totals are:
 - 133 Home Energy Assessments
 - 48 Insulation Projects
 - 5 Photovoltaic Solar Systems (14,405 Watts)
 - 134 Metric Tons of Greenhouse Gases avoided, or 28 Cars Removed from the Road.
 - \$33,800 Saved
- Eileen suggested contacting some people and asking if we can publicize their experiences.

Closing

- Next Meeting – Thursday, April 10, 2014, 7pm-9pm - Public Meeting Room, Government Center, 119 School St. (6:30-7:00 Newcomers)
- The committee adjourned at 8:55 PM.