

Waltham Energy Action Committee

Thursday 7pm, February 21, 2013

Public Meeting Room, Government Center, 119 School St.

Minutes

Members Present:

Kathy Randel, Leo Keightley, Eileen Zubrowski, Melissa Downes

Others Present:

Bob Ferrone (WS COC)

Jacob Miller (recently moved to Waltham .. ME .. energy efficiency work)

Frank Craig (Waltham City attorney, studies in Applied Sustainability at BU)

Jim Mniece

Amy Gortler

David Yang (environmental or safety coordinator with various businesses)

agenda in [blue](#)

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

Welcome

Because there were new guests we all introduced ourselves.

[Accept December and January minutes – Kathy](#)

Minutes for both months are accepted unanimously once typographical errors identified by Eileen for both months are entered.

[Waltham Complete Streets Update - Eileen](#)

Eileen reminded us of the Complete Streets training in April (10-Apr, 1:30 to 4:30, library auditorium). Engineering, Planning, and CPW will send reps. thanks to Mike Garvin's contacting them. Eileen repeated Councillor Stephen Rourke's suggestion for WEAC to back an independent grading system for sidewalks and bus stops, to be used to prioritize maintenance and updates.

[Ice Rink update - Leo](#)

Leo mentioned that 2 proposals concerning Veterans Memorial Rink upgrades have been received by Nick Abruzzi (Assistant Director, Recreation Dept.). These are for an initial audit to identify upgrade options and for engineering and design of conventional (not geothermal) upgrades. The Rink Committee has decided to proceed with the initial audit and is preparing a proposal for Waltham to take that action.

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

Kathy has been looking at focusing on these two buildings (as proposed by the Mayor at the Oct-'12 WEAC meeting). Kathy has talked to people from NSTAR, Johnston Controls, Tim Kelly, and Don Cusano.

- Don noted that City Hall ac freezes up at times and the boiler needs work.
- Tim noted there are LEDs in the candelabras in City Hall and some LED streetlights.
- Mike Rooney of NSTAR said the reason NSTAR does an audit is to reduce KWHr use. Before they

do another audit they want some assurance that there are plans to follow through. NSTAR will meet with us to develop a strategy for as much of city as possible.

There was reference to \$5 million being proposed for Municipal Center renovation.

Kim Brenna and Allan Holten of Johnson Controls:

- They have been working with the Waltham Housing Authority. They noticed the WEAC website and contacted Kathy concerning a possible energy savings performance contract (ESCO) for some City work. JC has worked with other neighboring cities including Watertown, with which they have a 15 year contract.

There was some discussion about the value of doing an ESCO vs the City paying, especially with low hanging fruit.

Next steps:

- Kathy will do a writeup to send to Joe Pedulla, the Mayor, and Don Cusano, and ask where to go from here. She will distribute a draft of the writeup to the WEAC Committee for comments.

Frank Craig suggested the committee say, as a representative of the Mayor:

The City needs a plan within nn days, and departments should submit input into this.

Bob mentioned a program "gateway cities" and will send info to Kathy.

Johnson Controls will send us the Mayor's capital improvement plan. Leo, Melissa, Jim will look at it.

Northeast Elementary School update - Amy

Amy met a week ago with the Northeast Elementary School Science Coordinator and a 4th grade teacher to present an outline for a proposed activity, and they liked it. Three 4th grade classes will do this activity, which is on the greenhouse effect. In the activity, students act out the greenhouse effect (some being the sun's rays and some being greenhouse gases).

This will be a pilot and we will get help from Northeast Principal, Nadine Stein, to take it to all City schools.

Mike Barnet contacted Kathy and he might be able to help with the program Amy is working on.

Vote to approve volunteer listing – Kathy

Kathy asked for comments.

Melissa asked where the listing would be posted, and The Tribune was an example. Kathy is working with Danielle Einhorn (Brandeis intern working with Eileen) for other possibilities.

Melissa thought it could be more self promoting.

Frank thought it is good as it is.

It was suggested it could be posted at GETI.

Melissa will edit Kathy's existing draft.

Sagewell promotion – Amy

This project is moving forward. Amy talked with Roger Colton, co-chair of the Belmont Energy Committee, who said their target is 1000 requests and they are up to 600. The Belmont Committee had to work to make it a Belmont Town program (not a Sagewell program). The program is promoted on the Belmont Town website, other Town/School distribution channels, and in electric bills.

This is a MassSave program.

For Waltham:

- A flyer has been customized (Sagewell did this for Amy) that specifies the program as being available to Waltham residents. Kathy will post on this on the WEAC website and on Facebook.

- We may do Tribune article.

Ecofest Update - Mel

The date is Oct. 5th, '13 and the name is "GreenWatch," and environmental festival featuring green businesses that can save money for individuals and businesses.

Newsletter, web page, and PV Press Release Update - Kathy

The PV press release will not be used. It needs to be redesigned. Also, Ameresco may have to do all Waltham PV publicity because they own it.

Newsletter: Kathy is educating herself on MailChimp. She is hesitating now about adding a newsletter to things for the Mayor to review. MailChimp has helpful suggestions for content and distribution.

Additional item(s)

- Kathy mentioned Catherine Finnerin is interested in working with us. She is working out possible conflict of interest because she works with the State DEP.
Frank: There is a process for making people aware of laws concerning conflict and it goes through City Council.
Kathy will look into proceeding with this.
- Jim Mniece will call NSTAR regarding PV related energy savings credit.
- Fri. Mar 22, WATCH is holding a home fixup seminar at 1st parish to which leo will deliver flyers.

Closing

Next Meeting – Thursday, March 21, 2013 7pm-9pm - Public Meeting Room, Government Center, 119 School St.

The committee adjourned at 9:00 PM.