

Waltham Energy Action Committee

Thursday 7pm, October 10, 2014

Public Meeting Room, Government Center, 119 School St.

Minutes

Members Present:

Kathy Randel, Melissa Downes, Jim Mniece, Amy Gortler, Beth MacBlane

Others Present:

Jessica Balacios (found WEAC on the Waltham web site)

Leo Keightley

agenda in [blue](#)

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

Welcome

We introduced ourselves.

September Minutes – Mel

Due to a communication problem, minutes had not been distributed/read. This item was tabled.

Nominating/Voting for Secretary and Vice-chair - Mel

Discussion:

- Kathy reviewed tasks for the positions. Amy suggested combining the positions, which would require changing bylaws.
- Melissa said let's change the bylaws. There was a unanimous (positive) vote on this proposal.
- Melissa asked for volunteers for positions. There were none and the request was tabled.
- Amy said she will take notes from Leo and post as minutes.

Grants and Planning Subcommittee Update – Eileen

- Jim: At the grants meeting members discussed finding out about grant programs. Bob said we need some idea where city is going. We also need to know what grants are available (outside Green Communities). Bob emailed information on what other cities are doing. There was discussion of some recent projects (the City Hall / Govt. Ctr. And ice rink proposals). The group should talk to CPW and find out what's in the works. Leo will send the City Hall / Govt. Ctr. Plan documentation to Jim.
- Kathy mentioned a document on slowing climate change, a workshop, and possible grant. It is a program to help communities be greener. A reference is "Smart Growth America" (.org). This would require quick action: 23-Oct-'14 is the application deadline. The "grant" is the training. There are several topics: a Complete Streets like topic and Cool Planning are two examples. This would need City officials to attend. But Beth said it may be geared more to non-govt. citizens. Possibly leaders of strong citizen groups could go.

Communications Subcommittee Update - Beth

- Beth: Last week, updating the brochure was discussed. Updates are in process with technical (old Word document) and content changes. Last week the Subcommittee discussed updating the brochure. It's wip has technical (old Word doc) and info changes.

- Kathy discussed the newsletter possibilities:
3 editions per year
Containing only local (Waltham) information
Merging with the Recycling Newsletter

Continuation of Goals Discussion - Kathy

- Kathy: Brainstorming is done, but possibly current actions are enough for the year (City plan, grants, rework brochure, newsletter).
- Kathy: Do we want to do a piece for the newspaper about Complete Streets?
- Amy noted that residential energy work is not one of the 4 goals. There was discussion about this.
- Jessica mentioned that in several countries presentations are made to school children (who are more invested in the future and will educate their parents).

Connecting with Mayor and City Council - Kathy

- Kathy has completed an “accomplishments” document. This will be sent to the Mayor and Stephen Rourke. She will ask both of them to a meeting.
- Amy mentioned that Councillors she has talked to are very receptive to energy issues.

PV Installations – Jim

Grace and Eileen were particularly interested so this will be included on next month's agenda.

Jim did brief presentation:

- Regarding discussion with home owners who might install PV (responding to queries at Waltham Day for example) Jim has a PV installation and good experience. It would be good for him to talk to these people.
- Jim's system was done by Solar City (which does 500 installations/mo).
- Solar city has done a lot of installations on the South Shore.
- Jim's system has 18 panels. He showed graphs of energy delivery on clear and partly cloudy days. Over a year, the system is making (and saving for Jim) several hundred dollars worth of energy. Jim put about 10% down, but this isn't necessary. Jim described the system: panels and inverter/grid (instead of battery). Solar panels are getting very efficient: 20% is commercially available and state of art is 44% (very expensive).

Next Steps/Action Items

Next Meeting - Thursday, November 13, 2014, 7pm-9pm

Public Meeting Room, Government Center, 119 School St.

The committee adjourned at 9:00 PM.