

# Waltham Energy Action Committee

Thursday 7pm, April 08, 2010

Public Meeting Room, Government Center, 119 School St.

## Minutes

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### Members Present:

Pat Fox, Rick Ochse, Kathy Randel, Leo Keightley, Andy Greene, Eileen Zubrowski, Janna Cohen-Rosenthal, Susan DellaCamera

### Others Present:

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

### Review and close follow-up items

Table at Waltham Land Trust - are we ready?

- Banner
  - Kathy displayed the very nice banner she had made.
- WEA handout
  - Kathy handed out copies
  - We may informally use
- NSTAR, National Grid handouts?
  - Andy said the above companies didn't have any literature to offer (suggested copying from their websites)
    - Andy has some table display items, but not handouts
  - Andy also had a Questions and Answers handout
    - Andy will try to pickup letterhead from Kathy's handout
- Assigned times at the table?
  - Times are on the Google site
- Andy has the raffle form.

Green Communities updates - what will it take to get there?

- Steve - discussions with City Councilors; as-of-right permitting
  - Steve is working on setting up a meeting with certain city councilors
  - Andy: we need to back up Steve with info about the various plan Criteria.
- Rick - overall plan
  - Rick passed around an overall summary from the GC website.
    - Rick focused in on Criterion 3 showing reference list and the *Guidance for Criterion 3* and referring to a sample Criterion 3 Action Plan.
- Janna - vehicle purchase plan
  - Janna handed out *Guidance for Criterion 4* (fuel efficient vehicles)
    - A significant aspect is that requirements evolve (generally become stricter) so each time a vehicle is purchased the most recent requirements have to be met.

Janna also thought our vehicle plan should be more comprehensive and include provisions to truly reduce motor vehicle impact (drive less, for example).

Janne mentioned Green Commute Day at Brandeis (day after earth day)

Kathy suggested we could put city's fuel efficient vehicles on the web site

- Guy - stretch code

Eileen: maybe we should email guy and tell him he's been volunteered.

- Eileen:

John Tasjian (Director of Public Vehicles) supports green policies. Waltham is the first Massachusetts city to adopt a program to recycle used motor oil from public vehicles.

Article for Trib (Andy)?

No progress: possibly too early. Andy's not sure what would go there except go to MassSave.

Website status (Eileen)?

Eileen thought we were waiting for the mayor to say ok .. but Pat said the Mayor has said to go ahead. Eileen said then she will start.

We can put up some of the info we will be handing out at the Land Trust Market.

Facebook page - it is set up

- have you become a fan?
- how will we keep it interesting?

Contacting departments

- Has the WEAc letter gone out?

Rick sent drafts to Kathy and Steve

Evidently Steve sent a version to Kathy also

- Rick handed out copies of Steve's letter.
- Andy felt even Steve's note might look a bit like we're looking over the shoulders of City officials and administrators and possibly being prescriptive. Maybe we can ask them to attend a meeting. Maybe we can stop in and talk.
- Janna thought a phone call might be better than asking for paper. Maybe we can offer option of phone call. Also, the depth of answers to all the questions is unclear. Maybe we can do a few daytime meetings to involve people who would like to attend a meeting but would prefer that time rather than evenings. Also response can be email. Also, maybe we should remove the third bullet asking energy specifics. People generally agreed.
- Eileen: There was, the 2008 Inventory (Waltham's Energy use and Emissions of Greenhouse Gases - 2005-2007 by Jake Yarmus) and now WEAc is asking similar questions, possibly creating the impression that this information goes nowhere and does nothing. Maybe we can refer to the Inventory and say we're building on that. Maybe Andy could ask Skip how we should contact Department heads. Eileen asked: What do we really want in response to letter?  
Rick, said we want baseline information (KWHr, gal of gas, etc)  
Kathy said relationship building is first.  
Pat suggested we do have to build more bridges (like Andy's link w/ Skip Bandini)  
Pat: Soften letter, send it out, follow up with phone call or visit.

Rick and Kathy will work on the letter (Steve posted a copy on the Google site).

Pat: goal is to send letter out by next week.

- Plan for meeting?

Data tracking software - Andy?

#### WATCH proposal:

Andy referred to the Barnraising & Education for Waltham Energy Lowering (BE WEL) project summary, 01-Mar-10 from WATCH CDC. WATCH asked if we would partner with them. We offered support as noted in last minutes.

- Andy noted there was no mention of MassSave in the original proposal and it turns out that Erica Schwarz (project contact) wasn't aware of the opportunity and thought it made sense to engage MassSave as part of the plan. So the plan has evolved. For example, the WATCH program will handhold people through the MassSave process.

#### New Items

EPA scientist:

- Janna Has become aware of Dwight Peavey (state EPA scientist) who is working with city for one thing to keep city from being sued over environmental issues. He meets with all Waltham dept. heads. He actually has power to sue the City. This group is a committee of sorts. Janna suggested Pat talk to Dr. Peavey.

Watertown: Community Forum on Energy Efficiency, the Environment and the Economy

- Pat attended this forum on March 31, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., in the Watertown Savings Bank Room at the Watertown Public Library. It was co-sponsored by State Rep. Jon Hecht, D-Watertown, the Watertown-Belmont Chamber of Commerce, Watertown Citizens for Environmental Safety and the Watertown Democratic Town Committee. U.S. Rep. Ed Markey was guest of honor.

Speakers presented municipal and business environmental and energy saving accomplishments

- Solar panels on the Watertown police station is an example

Rep. Markey talked about Markey-Waxman climate bill

Very good attendance

The first speaker, a librarian, noted: The Watertown library has 10 kwhr-meters people can borrow

There were handouts from NStar

There were handouts on Hidden cost of oil / hidden cost of gasoline

#### Assignments

See Contacting Departments above

#### Next Steps/Action Items

Next Meeting – May 13, 2010 - Public Meeting Room, Government Center, 119 School St.

The committee adjourned at 9:00 PM.