

Waltham Energy Action Committee

Thursday 7pm, April 08, 2010

Public Meeting Room, Government Center, 119 School St.

Minutes

Members Present:

Pat Fox, Kathy Randel, Leo Keightley, Andy Greene, Eileen Zubrowski, Tony Dover

Others Present:

Councilor Steven Rourke

Jennifer Gokhale: Recycling intern

Allison Mooney

Gabe Schapiro: Director of Community Programs, Next Step Living

Zack Pardy

Lives in Waltham, read up on WEAC on its website and is observing to see if he can participate.

Zack is a Brandeis grad. and knows Jake Yarmus who wrote the report "Waltham Greenhouse Gas Emissions."

Phil Jutras

(agenda in blue)

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

Welcome

We introduced ourselves for the benefit of new visitors: Gabe Schapiro and Zack Pardy.

Gabe Schapiro will describe to us the services Next Step Living offers and how they might benefit our outreach to Waltham residents (45 minutes)

Gabe presented a prepared slideshow presentation.

Steps to create partnership (with the City of Waltham):

- Get a MOU in place.
- Setup a "Web Portal" (where people can interact with the program (for example: schedule audits and transfer energy use data).
- Work with Waltham representatives to create a plan for Waltham.

Gabe will follow up with Eileen.

Review and accept minutes from previous meetings – 5 minutes

Drafts of minutes for the last two months (14-Apr-'11 and 10-Mar-'11) were accepted unanimously.

Update on PV project for municipal buildings (Andy) – 10 minutes

Complete contract for all buildings is signed.

DOER will eventually publish the the contracts.

We do have a claim on a portion of the Renewable Energy Credits.

There are current contracts (part of this deal) for roof repair and replacement.

Andy mentioned videos: Ameresco is going to do this for the project as part of the contract.

- Ameresco is in charge of outreach. Right now a press release and video are planned.
- There will be LCD displays in all buildings with performance information.
- There will be a web site to view performance info.

There are structural engineering efforts now starting to assess all roofs involved.

Completion times:

- The Municipal center started first with schools shortly after. Hopefully things complete by end of Sep. or Oct.

This is the biggest single city rooftop installation contract in MA (just under 2MWatt).

Andy mentioned what WEAC might be able to use the project as an incentive for getting homeowners and businesses to do PV projects. Possibly WEAC can setup programs with vendor(s).

Update Green Communities (Kathy) – 15 minutes

- Leiran Biton, the consultant from ICF assigned to assist in preparing Waltham's plan to meet the five criteria to become a Green Community, has gotten another job. Eliza Johnston will be taking over and Sara Lisaukas will be assisting. Transition to the new ICF team is going well.
- Kathy reviewed the progress subcommittee members are making in developing plans to meet the 5 criteria.
 - The ICF consultants have recommended that Mfg. only, instead of R&D and Mfg., be the type of energy related function to fulfill, for Waltham, the Criteria 1 and 2 requirements on which Tony is focusing.
 - Leo continues developing the MEI database and reporting tool for Criterion 3. The next step is discussion of approaches to achieve the required energy use reductions.
Skip Bandini (Director of Facilities, Waltham Public Schools) is interested in working more with the GC effort, providing an effective link with the Schools.
 - Steve discussed his plan of approach for Criterion 5 (adoption of the Stretch Code) in presenting the City Council with the entire GC plan 1st, showing the stretch code's role in the plan. Steve reviewed the timing: to bring in a Resolution on May 23rd and present to the Council on June 6th or bring in the Resolution on June 13th and present to the council on the 20th.
Kathy has lists of contractors and said she could use help sorting them and calling those selected to a Stretch Code presentation. Allison said she could help.
 - Kathy reviewed 3 planned presentations in June:
 - Action Plan Presentation (same audience as Kickoff meeting)
 - Stretch Code presentation to builders
 - GC program presentation to the City Council
 - There was not discussion of Criterion 4 which involves fuel efficient vehicles.

Pat asked if we have list of potential volunteers. Eileen said she has a small list but has not gotten good response from people on that list. People brought up Barry Stearns or Jim Mneice. both of whom have attended meetings. Possibly Barry could recruit volunteers from Church (1st Parish Waltham).

Steve: The timing of presentations is being driven by ICS and may not be the most efficacious for us. Kathy said we will get access to ICS materials (slideset) and can do our own presentations later.

Tony: It would be good to have someone from a community that has passed the Stretch Code to be there to answer questions.

Pat: as the plan gets put together we should start cultivating a volunteer list.

Andy: we've never tried to work with other groups (churches, etc.). Pat: Maybe we can put together a dog & pony show, highlighting WEAC programs (PV, GC, NSTAR, etc.) and present it to groups. Zack said he'd like to volunteer.

NSTAR Community Outreach grant/Next Step Living? (Eileen) – 15 minutes

- NSTAR said if we get enough people by Oct. we could get another grant.
- Jennifer said she is still doing callbacks to people contacted at a table she set up at the Sat., 07-May Waltham Farmers Market and from canvassing.
- Eileen: We've been unsuccessful getting volunteers from Brandeis, Bentley (none), and townspeople.
- Phil distributed and reviewed a detailed status report of GETI activities related to the NSTAR program. In it were models of how to assemble volunteer teams. Phil said you can't get volunteers by just asking, you have to do seeding and get leaders from target volunteer organizations.
- Andy said 1 thing Gabe Schapiro has mentioned is bill stuffing (fliers distributed with something like a water bill).
Eileen will check on bill stuffing (this could use 20,000 fliers). We could ask NSTAR for more brochures, or use the remaining \$3K from NSTAR grant to print some.
- Pat asked if we should continue to look into Next Step Living.

Other open items – possibilities include brainstorming a list of other speakers for WEAC, or a list of projects suitable for interns/Scouts/students

no discussion

New Topics:

Pat: We need to look into terminating members: How do we do it?

- Steve suggested we could send to the member involved a nice letter mentioning bylaws and attendance and ask if the person is still interested in being on the Committee. The letter could ask if the person would want to be on a volunteer list?
- It was decided the letter should be from the Chair (Pat)
- Pat suggested Eileen take Guy and Rick off the website.

Closing

Next Meeting – Thursday, June 9, 2011 - Public Meeting Room, Government Center

The committee adjourned at 9:05 PM.

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