

Waltham Energy Action Committee

Thursday 7pm, June 10, 2010

Public Meeting Room, Government Center, 119 School St.

Minutes

Members Present:

Guy Compagnone, Pat Fox, Rick Oches, Kathy Randel, Leo Keightley, Andy Greene, Janna Cohen-Rosenthal

(Agenda in blue text)

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

Welcome

text

Review and accept minutes from previous meeting(s)

13-May-10: accept

26-May-10: minutes and plan discussion: accept

Discussion and review updates for items from previous meeting(s):

- Green Community Act – update from Steve Rourke (unconfirmed)
 - Steve was not here.
 - discussion: There doesn't seem to be a lot of awareness of GC in Waltham.
 - Pat: N. Andover is having difficulty getting stretch code accepted.
 - Andy: We haven't spoken much about this and elected officials are aware. Maybe we should issue a statement. Andy is thinking we should make statement before we create and begin acting on a plan.
 - Reports on discussions with department heads
 - Kathy: Kristin Murphy, Director of Personnel
 - Maybe there is a grant or the Mayor has \$ for Green Team people or the scanner.
 - Janna: are there tax benefits for using public transportation or biking (\$20 to \$25 / mo for bike repairs etc.)?
- Andy: on his meeting with Ralph: Andy is still thinks we should help with the PV installation. Other communities are not paying for PV. Maybe we can consider Block Grant Funding (\$630K). There are other financing possibilities. Ralph is overloaded and needs help. Needs help finding and getting grants.
- Pat: How much help?
 - Janna: Does it have to be Borrego?
No, not necessarily
 - Committee members volunteer to be on the sub-committee to help with the PV proposal
Andy, Janna, Guy are "on the sub-committee"
- Andy: Ted Fields, Planning.
- bike racks weren't mentioned

Waltham Energy Action Committee

Thursday 7pm, June 10, 2010

Public Meeting Room, Government Center, 119 School St.

Minutes

- Rail Trail (started by Andy) is also in Planning. Bus path with bike path still being considered.
- Planning is short handed also.
- They don't track state grants but pay attention to federal grants.
- If someone spotlighted available grants maybe there could be better utilization.
The City could really use full time sustainability person.

- Discussion

Andy and Rick: Planning should be very involved in energy, but are more reactive.

Ralph had tried to do energy savings like lighting and temp, but encountered resistance.

Skip sees changes immediately in his budget, Planning and Buildings might not.

Janna: talked to the Director of Transportation: The person she talked to said "we do parking meters and parking lots." We Have 2 Priuses and 2 std cars.

- Andy: there is a traffic committee and Janna says Frank Ching used to be the Traffic Engineer (Frank is no longer at that position.).

Janna: Director of Vehicles: This person seems to be John Tashjian .. but maybe not.

Guy: Has not done so yet but will set up a meeting with Jim McGrath: Procurement.

- [Brief report on ICLEI regional networking meeting](#)

- Other...

- Guy pointed out that we should be careful about posting people's comments on public access site.

The Google isn't public right now.

Build a timeline for next 6 months

- Statement regarding Green Communities pre-plan could be part of this.
- Pat: Possibly we can issue an advisory memo
- Guy: We should do 2 or 3 effective things in this time frame.
- Guy: Mentioned Mark Sandine, Lexington Interfaith, saying we should have him at a meeting.
- Guy: Newton has an energy person full time, who is looking at projects which they are going to implement.
- Guy: for Waltham: we should do energy an assessment with Skip or Ralph
- Guy: There is a big PV installation in Weston property at the Broken Stone Quarry site project.
- Guy: Genzime, 1st Platinum/Platinum building
- Guy: We should have **Fran Boucher** over
- Andy: The Environmental Committee meets 16-June 9AM at the High School Principle's Conference Room.

Maybe PV can be put there instead of on the Municipal Building roof: Cheryl thinks it's

Waltham Energy Action Committee

Thursday 7pm, June 10, 2010

Public Meeting Room, Government Center, 119 School St.

Minutes

problematic.

- Eileen, concerning a place to hold money for the WEA Committee: The auditor said if you get money, just bring it and they will make a place.
- Pat:
 - Passed out a handout concerning the timeline discussion.
 - Leo: start writing a plan .. keep it general
 - Andy: thinks working on plan is also good
 - Pat: Write plan with goal to have skeletal plan in 4 to 6 months (Dec).
 - Brainstorming/listening sessions (municipal stakeholder within 6 mo. - public forum)
 - Kathy: maybe meetings should be smaller than all stakeholders
 - Guy: Also keep meetings small and do interim meetings.
 - Guy: Maybe 1st meeting would be initial report to Mayor
 - Pat: maybe change brainstorming/listening should be "educational."
 - Pat asked what 3 things each of us wanted done in the next 6 months
 - Kathy: PV installation help, Finish Dept. heads calls, Apply for 1 grant
 - Andy: Create action plan
 - Rick: Create Action Plan
 - Janna: Create Action Plan
 - Pat: Create a plan, PV installation, one communication item
 - Janna: From options on the handout:
 - Inventory what's happening now and propose what Waltham should do.
 - Guy: Create Plan, Include actions of group, PV Project, funding
 - Leo: Create a plan

Assignments

Janna will make plan as an editable Google Document.

We will add items to it.

Next Steps/Action Items

Next Meeting – Thursday, July 8, 2010 - Public Meeting Room, Government Center, 119 School Street

The committee adjourned at 9: PM.