

Waltham Energy Action Committee

Thursday 7pm, July 14, 2011

Fire Department Classroom, Municipal Center, 165 Lexington Street

Minutes

Members Present:

Pat Fox, Kathy Randel, Leo Keightley, Andy Greene, Eileen Zubrowski, Janna Cohen-Rosenthal, Melissa Downs, Tony Dover

Others Present:

Zack Pardy

Jim McNeice

Yifan Yang

Allison Mooney

agenda in [blue](#)

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

Welcome

Yifan Wang, a Brandeis student and intern at the Recycling Department, attended the meeting. We all introduced ourselves.

Minutes

Minutes draft for the 09-Jun-'11 meeting was posted earlier today (14-Jul-'11) and there hasn't been enough time for people to review the text. We will wait until next meeting to consider accepting the draft.

Discussion and review of items in process:

- [Update Green Communities \(Kathy\) – 15 minutes](#)

Kathy provided a brief overview of the GC program for Yifan

Kathy reviewed Committee progress

- The wrap up meeting for the Green Communities Action Plan (which outlines how the GC Subcommittee and Waltham will approach meeting the 5 GC Criteria) was held at the Fire Department Training Room in the Municipal Center on Tue., 28-Jun-'11.
- A Stretch Code educational session for builders was held at the Wave Sports Bar on Waverly Oaks Road on Wed., 29-Jun-'11
 - Acceptance pretty good
 - Councillors Darcey, Rourke were there.
 - Councillor Tarallo had earlier asked Kathy for a copy of the Action Plan.
- Andy reviewed the process for the Municipal Center audit that was initiated on 29-Jun-'11.
 - We pushed for improvements with a longer (5 year) payback for greater energy savings.
 - The focus of these (free) audits tends to be on Utility rebate items.
- Andy explained we may go for esco or bond for long term payback items

- Andy and Tony suggested we use what we have from existing school and the new Municipal Center audit to formulate plans.
- Melissa: Possibly we can highlight projects which may have higher emotional value to help sell the projects.

Pat asked if we can use help

- Leo said definitely, for writing the rest of the GC application.

- **Update on PV project (Andy) – 10 minutes**

Still finalizing structural analyses. The Kennedy School is likely to be first.

Systems are ballasted (weights holding collectors down).

- There are other technologies that reduce ballast weight (aerodynamic systems for example that push down when wind hits).

- **Next Step Living - MOU (Eileen) – 10 minutes**

Pat said we have a final MOU. Joe Pedulla has reviewed it and says it should be signed.

Gabe is looking not for Mayor signature; Committee endorsement is fine

Pat will send the MOU to the Mayor for review with a statement Pat plans to sign it next week.

Gabe wants to meet with us to kick things off so he is invited to the August meeting.

- **WEAC Brochure (Allison & Melissa) – 15 minutes**

Allison: She and Melissa met and reviewed ideas which she went over for the committee.

"We need a fan club"

- Discussed possible use of web vehicles (blogs, facebook)
- Janna mentioned the "Moving Planet" event which has a Boston component
A Citizens-of-Waltham group could participate to support addressing climate change
- Andy: If we have popular support we have a lot more credibility
- Janna suggested news *LISTSERVs*
- Leo suggested Waltham Patch
- Pat suggested that we need a reason for the brochure.

Tony: It would be part of branding

Andy: brochures can inform people about issues

Pat: recommended the following actions:

1) decide on a brochure size (1/3 of a page) , 2) How do we get exposure electronically

- Kathy will look at Patch
- Allison & Melissa 1/3 page brochure

Other open items

none

New Business

- **Wind Potential in Waltham (Zack) – 15 minutes**

Zack has looked at topographical maps for Waltham's high sites

Min average annual wind speed for effective turbine use is 6m/sec.

A turbine should be located at least 1000 ft from homes

Zack has found 3 potential sites:

- Using a Cadmus web site tool and coordinates of the potential turbine sites Zack found 1 (Prospect Hill) has 6.4 m/sec average annual wind speed, and the other 2 are 5.8 m/sec.

Does city have control over Prospect Hill?

We may be able to get free resource assessment.

- Tony: can they do a presentation for us?
- Tony: Flow Design has concepts for sites where big turbines can't be used.

other

Tony will make an appointment with IST Energy for a waste burning demo.

Closing

Next Meeting (tentative), Thursday, 11-Aug-'11, 7:00 - 9:00 PM

- Fire Department Classroom, Municipal Center, 165 Lexington Street
- The committee adjourned at 9:15 PM.