

# Waltham Energy Action Committee

Thursday 7pm, September 9, 2010

Public Meeting Room, Government Center, 119 School St.

## Minutes

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### Members Present:

Guy Compagnone, Pat Fox, Rick Ochess, Kathy Randel, Leo Keightley, Andy Greene, Eileen Zubrowski, Melissa Downs

### Others Present:

Councilor Steven Rourke

Anne Schweitzer

WATCHcdc Community Organizer, [organizer@watchcdc.org](mailto:organizer@watchcdc.org)

Sam Werikhe

Waltham resident, from Uganda, where he served in a variety of senior environmental positions in the Ugandan national government in wildlife management, conservation, environmental protection and other disciplines. Sam is currently working on his pHd in Conservation Biology at Antioch College in Keene, NH and has also been working with the Massachusetts Dept of Conservation and Recreation.

Leonel Nava

Background: see Others Present 12-Aug-'10 meeting minutes.

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[\(agenda in blue\)](#)

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

### Welcome

Due to having visitors we introduced ourselves.

### Review and accept minutes from previous meeting(s)

10jun10 accepted by unanimous vote

28jun10 accepted by unanimous vote

12aug10 Leo asked this draft be held for review of a couple of items.

### WATCH – Healthy Homes

Review of program ([Anne Schweitzer](#), WATCH staff: Community Organizer)

- Anne distributed a handout. One side was her current version of a flier for WATCH's "Healthy Homes" program. The other side contained program details.
- The program has received a \$13,000 grant from the EPA (half of what they asked for)
- One of the program's immediate objectives is to perform, for qualified recipients as defined by the Program, some combination of the 3 service options described on the flier. The \$13K grant is intended to provide funds for this objective.
  - Note: file "healthy-homes.html," copied from the WATCH website on 26-sep-10, is included in the subdirectory with these minutes, and should be referred to while reading these minutes. This file describes the program. A digital copy of the flier is not available for these minutes.

- Option 2 .. there was some discussion about the possibility that the MassSAVE program is overloaded and \$ won't be available for current applicants until '12.
- The program is considering creating a Healthy Homes booklet addressing energy, and also things like chemicals (cleaning products)).
- WATCH has just "now" received its first opportunity to perform one of the service options for this program which has been advertised since July.
  - Anne is concerned about whether the program will be sustainable and won't have to spend too much effort on advertising. People will hopefully see WATCH as place to go for home improvement. The program wants to get at least 8 opportunities (qualified recipients) to properly use the \$13K grant.

Following was a period of discussion & brainstorming around possible opportunities to increase awareness and participation by qualified recipients and possible reasons for low participation to date.

- Energy Action Day, 10-Oct, was identified as a marketing opportunity.
- Leo: Can you estimate cost savings? (10-15% was suggested as a rough estimate for just weatherization)
  - Guy mentioned an electric power meter and program available to measure existing use and project savings (Powerhouse Dynamics "eMonitor"). This measures individual circuits.
  - Library has energy meters to borrow.
- Leo: How is the program being presented? (It is offered as a service to anyone: barn raising or simple audit).
- Leonel asked if there was any ethnic focus to the marketing. .. (No, marketing is directed to anyone).
- Eileen suggested working with the Waltham Community Farm. Possibly check with the Outreach Market.
- Andy suggested the Sat. Farmers' Market as a possible venue.
- Consider handing out flier with the electric power meters available at the library.
- Guy suggested going to churches to ask for people to participate.
- **Get in touch with WOCONA (Doris Donnivan)**
- Anne asked for suggestions regarding the flier (on one side of handout).
 

There was some discussion that it might look like a sales pitch.

Guy suggested bulleting a few items and say they are free.
- Guy mentioned the group at the Waltham Industry Museum which is trying to do similar work in auditing and weatherization (**Phil Buttress** is a contact).
- Guy mentioned this is good match for an NStar offering which could provide \$27K for auditing for Waltham.
 

Andy, referring to the earlier concerns about MassSAVE funds availability, that MassSAVE IS the auditing arm for the utilities.
- How does the landlord get involved?
 

For a MassSave program, a qualified recipient has to be the owner.

For the WATCH Healthy Homes program "barn raising" the tenant is the marketing target but the landlord has to improve.
- Steve said he thinks it might be unusual that a tenant would approach the landlord. Maybe the

program should contact "good" landlords who want to improve things.

- Anne is working in WATCH on a landlord focus.
- There was considerable discussion about landlord - tenant relationship.
- Steve asked if owner occupied situations would be better and everyone thought yes.
- Library has energy meters to borrow. Hand out flier with meter?
- Guy suggested going to churches to ask for people to participate.

#### Brainstorming outreach ideas (no more than 20 minutes)

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#### Discussion and review of items in process

##### update on PV project for municipal buildings (Andy)

- Meeting this AM (09-Sep.) to get everyone and info ready for Council. (Mayor, Ralph at meeting).
  - Town people had plenty of questions and advice
  - Melissa took notes
  - There was suggestion to buy the PV system using bond, not lease
- Melissa and Andy spoke with Skip Bandini and Barego about PV on schools. This might make a better combined package.
- Presenting the Municipal Buildings proposal to Council on 20-Sep.

##### update on application for Green Communities technical assistance (Kathy)

- Kathy met with the Mayor who agreed to the submission of an application for a grant of a GC assistant. We'll know the results around the end of Oct.

##### NSTAR Community Outreach grant (Guy)

- Guy suggested we look into two available NSTAR grant programs and get a better idea what these are and where the work comes from (MassSAVE). Programs (and funding) are available. There is a program for 270 houses.
- Steve suggested for the school component to get someone from the school on the Committee as a member or participant. Steve said he knows a few people. We could use a inside champions. Right now school leadership is in flux.
- The Community Outreach grant needs to be submitted Oct 1. Do we want to go for the \$27K? Guy .. has an assistant who might help. Andy suggested maybe we can do this through Anne's program. Guy will look at this (also tell Anne) and tell us what's really involved.
- Education assistance is ongoing.
- Who is mentor for sustainability club at school?

##### Solar Thermal RFI being requested by the MA Clean Energy Center due September 16

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##### Other grant opportunities (Kathy)

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##### Department head follow-up and adding notes to Google site

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##### Projects for interns

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Action Plan discussion

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Other open items

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### **New business**

Green roofs presentation, Guy's office, 4-5:30 Wed 29-Sep. News and Events on website Chapman company.

- [www.chap-con.com](http://www.chap-con.com), Chapman Construction/Design,

### **Next Steps/Action Items**

Next Meeting – Thu., Oct. 14, 2010 - Public Meeting Room, Government Center, 119 School Street

The committee adjourned at 9:05 PM.