

Waltham Energy Action Committee

Thursday 7pm, February 09, 2012

Public Meeting Room, Government Center, 119 School St.

Minutes

Members Present:

Kathy Randel, Leo Keightley, Eileen Zubrowski, Melissa Downs

Others Present:

Jim Mneice

Emily Starr

Stacy DeGabriele

Allison Mooney

Emily Chambers

New visitor this month. Formerly worked as the Director of Operations for a local solar energy company. Masters in Public Policy UMASS. Is renting very un energy efficient appartment.

Scott Burkall

New visitor this month. 2009 Grad U.Cal Bus. Economics. Coursework in Energy and the Environment and The Impact of Energy.

Amy Gortler

New visitor this month. Moved to Waltham in Dec. Had it insulated before they moved in (a very good time to do insulation.). Degree in Public Administration.

agenda in [blue](#)

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

Welcome

There was some discussion of Andy Green's work on the PV installation. Andy has a new, rather demanding job, and is thinking of dropping off this committee.

There was also some discussion of Criteria still to be ironed out, esp. Criteria 1 and 2 for which we are awaiting information.

[Review and accept minutes from previous meeting\(s\)](#)

We need to accept the minutes for two meetings in January (12 and 31). Please go to <https://sites.google.com/site/ceecaw/file-cabinet> and look under Meeting Minutes '11 to find the applicable file.

These minutes were accepted unanimously.

[Waltham Energy Action Forum \(Melissa and Kathy\)](#)

[Review Visioning ideas, decide who will organize follow-up survey](#)

- Stacy will follow up
- There was some discussion of format

[Review what went well, what we might do differently](#)

- The space was great.

- People weren't mingling that much before meeting.
- It seemed some people hadn't read email because several hadn't expected food and didn't know there was networking at 6:30.
Before the event was a good time for networking, however, because the meeting was long and afterwards, people wanted to leave.
- About 2/3 people indicated on the signup sheet that we can continue to send info. to them.
Committee members thought this is a reasonable percentage.
- There was a lot of talk (at the Forum) about collaboration (streamlining permitting) but no follow on discussion.
- Not much was brought up about current collaboration (except land trust and DCR).
- The Forum was a good opportunity to simply hear what is going on and is being thought of.
- Kathy asked John Allen (at the Forum) if his group (Waltham Bicycle Committee) might want to be a subcommittee of WEAC.
John thought it was a good idea.
- It was noted that via Rick Oches (Bentley) there is an intern program to work with the Chamber of Commerce Sustainability Subcommittee to work with businesses to help with their sustainability efforts.
- There was Committee discussion of intern (or volunteer) possibilities and good projects (such as fund raising for WATCH).
- There is a sustainability network that does audits for buildings (these audits could be a project).
- Kathy mentioned Steve said a potential project is looking at what other MA towns and cities have done.

MBTA public hearing – spreading the word (Kathy)

- WATCH is taking on this as an agenda item.
- Kathy thought we could distribute fliers.
- Melissa is going to speak and will prepare a statement draft we can check so she can use the WEAC vice chair title.
- The potential increase in cars is an energy issue.

Budget Request (Eileen and Kathy)

Eileen: When ICLE dues (\$1500) were required, Councillor Logan interceded with city (put the expense on Public Works Budget). She will ask Steve if we can do this for a small operating budget for items such as:

- fliers
- printing
- banner
- business cards
- Home improvement (light bulbs for example)

Friends of WEAC was discussed (brought up as "super pac") to raise money for WEAC. Possibly that wouldn't work and Friends would have to raise money and buy the business cards for WEAC.

- Funds are also needed for barnraising or individual home improvement.

Possibly we should ask Joe Pedula.

Eileen suggested we check with Councillors, then possibly JoeP.

Maybe not "Friends of WEAC", but "Friends of Green Waltham" could raise funds for designated activities (barnraising, etc). The group could also work on grants.

Christ Church Solar Update (Jim)

Jim said he as no information yet.

Chamber of Commerce Sustainability Breakfast Update (Eileen)

- Kathy and Eileen and Emily
- The CoC Sustainability Committee is pretty new.
- Attendees were members of the CoC.
- One member had made energy saving improvements and was wondering if he could get his money back.
- A hotel owner had replaced light bulbs.
- Bob Ferrone said that the main CoC sustainability focus is not about birds and bees but competitive positioning.
Such as branding your company as being sustainable.
- NSTAR mentioned rebate programs and how to save on electricity.
- NGrid mentioned similar programs involving natural gas.
- AstroZenica has saved a lot of money using a ground up approach: training people. For example: having people close ventilation hoods when not in use.
- Saving carbon and social benefit was mentioned, but saving money was main focus.
- Since they're just forming now it's a good time to get in on CoC Sustain Committee work.
- There were 35 to 40 attendees.
- Cable TV mentioned interest in WEAC and suggested filming WEAC meetings.
Kathy thought it might be better to record a project such as a barnraising.
Kathy mentioned Cable airing of the Jan WEAC Forum and availability for download.

Annual Report

Please review. A draft is available on the WEAC Google site under File Drawers / Annual Reports.
<https://sites.google.com/site/ceecaw/home> (Leo).

People will look at it on the WEAC Google site.

Eileen: It would be good to give to Mayor and she may use it in her Waltham Annual Report, which, itself, is good to hear. So, we have to have it to the Mayor before that.

Bicycling in Waltham

Bike paths from Bentley and Brandeis to DCR Charles River Bike Path (Leo)

- Leo mentioned the road related bottlenecks for cycling between Brandeis or Bentley and the Charles River Bike Path and that paths along the Western Greenway and Mass Central Rail Trail don't appear to mitigate the problems.
- There was mention of a "Vulnerable Road User Bill." Now you have to die to be compensated. This bill would have a driver compensate for injury.

Hubway (Melissa)

There is nothing on this yet.

Green Communities Update (Kathy and Stephen)

no discussion

Activities of Other Towns (Kathy)

no discussion

Upcoming conferences (Kathy and Eileen)

no discussion

Additional

Communications committee:

How to do follow up communications for Forum.

Discussion of "Collaborative Outreach" We could create space for everyone to use.

Closing

Next Meeting – Thursday, March 8, 2012 - Public Meeting Room, Government Center, 119 School St.

The committee adjourned at 9:00 PM.