

Waltham Energy Action Committee

Thursday 7pm, September 08, 2011

Public Meeting Room, Government Center, 119 School St.

Minutes

Members Present:

Kathy Randel, Leo Keightley, Andy Greene, Eileen Zubrowski

Others Present:

Zack Pardy

Jim Mneice

Stacy DeGabriele

Stacy, a Waltham resident, has just completed an Environmental Engineering degree from Northeastern University and is currently employed doing related work. Stacy had been looking for a way to contribute to Waltham in environmental related effort and is pleased to have found the Energy Action Committee.

agenda in [blue](#)

Ms. Randel called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

There was confusion about the meeting location and we were delayed in starting by efforts to contact other members who had gone to the Fire Department Classroom at the Municipal Center instead of our location at Government Center.

Welcome

Stacy and Committee members introduced themselves.

Review and accept minutes from previous meetings – 5 minutes

There was no action on minutes from the Aug.-08-'11 meeting: "2011-m08-d11 minutes draft.pdf."

Discussion and review of items in process:

text

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

- As he indicated at the August 25th GC Subcommittee meeting, Councillor Steven Rourke, this past Monday (05-Sep), brought in to the Council an order to amend General Ordinances to add a section called Stretch Energy Code which would implement the State Building Code's Stretch Code. The first opportunity for a Council vote on the order is Sep. 19. Steve had mentioned that it would be good for WEAC members to be at the Sep. 19 Council meeting .
- Andy reviewed quality and quantity of data from the Municipal Center lighting audit. RISE Engineering delivered a good, detailed report
 - The project outlined in the report will provide a good example of what City and WEAC do with a such a clear opportunity to save money in a project that pays for itself in just over a year and a half.
Because the payback spans more than a year it may be necessary to pay for the project via the Capital Budget which is involved and time consuming.

Andy brought up the ESCO possibility also.

- There was discussion on whether or not it is advisable to move on opportunities (such as the lighting in the Municipal Center) as they occur in our development of the data for the ERP and GC application.
- Kathy reviewed status of the baseline and plan development for vehicles.
- In an email exchange, Joanne Bissetta, said that we can use energy reduction estimates from audited buildings as a model for predicting potential reduction in non audited buildings.
- Kathy is still considering the utility of using ERPs from other cities. Joanne is concerned about the age and applicability of other plans.
- The next GC Subcommittee meeting will be in two weeks.
- Leo mentioned 2 worksheets he had developed to calculate and document: 1) extrapolation of Competitive Supplier costs from a single CS account to a large number of similar accounts (metered streetlights and traffic signals are two examples) and 2) using energy reduction estimates from audited buildings as a model for predicting potential reduction in non audited buildings.
- [Update on PV project \(Andy\) – 10 minutes](#)
Major issues, involving roofs of the Municipal Center garage and the High School, have been resolved. The rest of program can proceed.
- [Participation in events](#)
No discussion
- [350.org](#)
Kathy asked if anyone will participate. Leo said he is planning on going.
Kathy asked if someone could speak at Episcopal Church? Jim Mneice volunteered.
Eileen may contact Councillors about the event and mention they might speak.
- [Waltham Day](#)
Allison Mooney, Zak Pardy, and Jim Mneice are planning and running the WEAC presence at this event (Sep. 17, 10:00 to 3:00).
We have a banner (used at the Waltham Land Trust (WLT) market). We will try to find it for the event.
Jim asked what is the purpose of our presence?
 - Kathy: Public relations, flyers, lists of projects.
 - Andy suggested the WEAC presentation should have "hook" like the raffel for cfl light bulbs at the WLT. Also, it is another opportunity to push energy audits. Andy may bring his quadracycle.
- [Convening a Waltham Eco-Network](#)
No discussion
- [WEAC website updates \(Eileen\)](#)
Eileen submitted the website updates and they are done.
Eileen mentioned that the City is changing website operation. Eileen is getting help redesigning the Recycling site and probably we can get help with the WEAC site. Training for the revised site is being planned.
- [Chamber of Commerce – sustainability committee \(Eileen\) – 5 minutes](#)
Pat and Eileen went to the first meeting of the Waltham Chamber of Commerce Sustainability Committee.

There will be monthly meetings and Pat and Eileen will attend. The Sustainability Committee said they are interested in working with WEAC.

There are many opportunities for outreach and education to local businesses.

The Sustainability Committee will be planning the scope of their efforts at the next meeting.

Other open items

- Leo mentioned the Sunlight Solar marketing presentation he attended at the Waltham Library.
- Kathy mentioned two guests we may want to invite to WEAC meetings.
John Bolduc: Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee and Energy Coordinator (www.cambridgema.gov/climate)
 - Eileen is specifically interested in having John discuss his very successful fund raising activities. Fund raising brought up the subject of having location where WEAC can hold funds. Eileen said she has determined that WEAC can have funds and will look into getting precise steps for setting up an account. Energy Coordinator for Cambridge (John Bolduc) (Climate Protection Action Committee www.cambridgema.gov/climate) is on deck for next meeting (Oct).
 - Kathy is interested in how the Cambridge Committee got started and have grown so successfully.
 - WEAC members are encouraged to go to the Cambridge Energy Committee website and develop questions on what we want to know from John. Questions should be emailed to Eileen by 22-Sep.
 - John will be invited to our October meeting and should talk for 1/2 hour with questions following his presentation.
- Mike Chaisson: the new Waltham CPW Managing Director
 - Pat will be invited to our November meeting.
- Discussion of the ECO Group (energy/environment affiliated council)
Maybe we can have the 1st meeting around end of this year. It will give us time to connect with interested organizations and we will have some publicity around the PV installation and GC application (as well as possible lighting improvements in the Municipal Center).
Eileen: Who would work on this? StacyD, ZackP, and JimM volunteered.

Closing

Next Meeting –

Thursday, October 13, 2011 - Public Meeting Room, Government Center, 119 School Street

Note: All meetings thru Dec-'11 will be in Government Center Public Meeting Room.

The committee adjourned at 9:15 PM.