

# CEECAW

11/12/09

## Minutes

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### **Members Present:**

Jutta Hager, Guy Compagnone, Pat Fox, Marilyn Maillet, Susan DellaCamera, Rich Oches, Kathy Randel, Leo Keightley, Janna Cohen-Rosenthal, Andy Greene

### **Others Present:**

Mayor Jeannette McCarthy, Councilor Steven Rourke, Allison Morse, Jake Yarmus

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

### *Basic Ground rules*

- Turn cell phones to vibrate or off
- Be on time, start on time, end on time
- Respect others
- Let everyone have a voice- one speaker at a time
- Minutes: Allison will do it when available, but Leo can take minutes when she is unavailable

In order to develop a focus, the Committee will need to create a mission statement and a statement of commitment. The statement of commitment addresses mandatory, reasonable attendance of meetings, recognizing the time commitment expected of members, and being responsible for any task that is assigned.

All members of the committee are busy people, so there must be a reasonable expectation on how to conduct email etiquette. A Google group will be created to facilitate conversation without overwhelming inboxes. People can post articles of interest or have conversations in the group and keep that information private within the committee. It is also worthwhile to revisit the issue of limits to email usage in order to have a clear procedure that the entire committee agrees on.

### *Committee Standing*

CEECAW is an advisory committee to the Mayor. The Mayor will therefore expect reports and certain action may require approval. The Mayor wants at least a 2 year commitment from committee members, which goes until the end of her current term. As a committee that covers a wide array of areas, it is necessary to reach out to various departments across the municipal government including the Departments of

Transportation and Public Works and the School Board. Different departments may handle similar or parallel issues but do not coordinate, in which case the committee might be able to foster such cooperation in the course of its investigation. It might also be important to remember the opportunity to utilize the student bodies of Brandeis University and Bentley University to do research.

Focusing on the cost-saving aspects of energy efficiency is the best way to eliminate resistance. While the environmental aspect is important, saving city and therefore taxpayer money provides an essential incentive. The concern about global warming in the USA is dropping, however worries about the economy are high and a fiscal benefit may help to motivate behavioral change. Any action that the committee undertakes should show significant fiscal return, with particular focus on cost-neutral actions.

The committee will not limit itself to solely paying attention to *municipal* greenhouse gas emissions. The bulk of energy use is in people's houses, so encouraging behavioral changes in residential properties will make a significant difference. If the municipal government begins to make changes, however, it would serve as a positive role model for households. The committee can eventually take an educational role with a cohesive message. This educational approach can be launched through an energy efficiency website, a coordinated effort from different departments, and possibly a "Green Corner" in the Waltham Tribune.

The City of Waltham has a partnership with Citizens Energy that can be helpful for more specific greenhouse gas data. While the GHG inventory covers a large swath of information, Citizens is prepared to come to the table to help with more specific auditing and efficiency.

A goal for the Committee, as prescribed by the Mayor in her invitation letter would be for Waltham to achieve status as a Green Community. The committee should first start with the inventory as a baseline and look for ways to reduce energy usage and GHG emissions. Current policies and standards could be changed to fit with this mission. For instance, adopting the Stretch Code, an amendment calling for higher efficiency in new construction through the existing electrical code, would not impact existing structures but cause a 20% improvement over existing standards. Amendments to the zoning code would also mandate new levels of efficiency for energy.

#### *What has been done by the city?*

The City has already taken some steps toward a greener community. 8 new schools have been built to high performance standards, including the Stanley School with LEED certification. The new buildings do not have much data available on their energy efficiency, but the facilities manager should be able to provide more information. In addition, the Building Department did a program with one of the utilities companies where they changed all the lights in one of the government buildings. There have been quantifiable economic gains by swapping traffic lights with new LED lights. In addition, the Municipal Center got stimulus money to invest in a photovoltaic system for the roof that the city will own.

It seems like any move towards more energy efficient, green initiatives have been piecemeal with no coordinated effort across the board. It is important to try to get information from various departments, but also not all departments report to the Mayor and this data might be hard to come by.

A good strategy to pursue is looking for triumphant stories of Waltham successes and use those as a platform for outreach and further development. Focusing on stories like the Stanley School show the community what can be achieved and why that is important.

#### **Entities we should be talking to**

- Ralph : building inspector
- Donny Casano
- Jim McGraph (purchasing)
- Skip Andini , Boudreau(schools)
- John Metzger (LED lights)

The Mayor indicated that the Committee should go through her office to arrange to speak with City Departments.

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#### **Next Meeting:**

- Push inventory to next meeting
- follow ups
- begin to make list of things to address
- focusing strictly on Municipal Center PV
- discuss ideas for name
  - perhaps have more presence and effect if we focus on cost/energy rather than environment
  - however, must remain close to Green Communities so environmental message is not inconsequential
  - sustainability a term that could be used
  - get something that people can remember
- possibility for conference line for short meetings (but still must be posted)
- discuss timeline and deadlines to keep project moving and focused

#### *Things to get done:*

1. Try to understand things that are going on
  - find information on inventory
  - ground rules (bylaws, mission statement, etc)
2. Develop some relationship with contact points

#### *Things To Do Before Next Meeting*

- Citizens Energy : Jutta
  - Peter Mills for January meeting

- Find out what they can do
- National Grid and NStar : Guy
- Factfinding : Andy will make initial contact and Guy will also collaborate
  - talk to Ralph Gaudet
  - what is being done with PV in Municipal Center (budget, scope of design, etc)
  - whoever will contact Ralph should first contact Mayor
- Green Communities : Eileen
  - Joanne Bissetta to come in Jan
  - picture of Stanley School on their site so we want to keep it up
- Bylaws : Pat and Leo
- Google Groups : Kathy
- Mission Statement : Councilor Rourke
- Statement of commitment : Susan and Janna
  - simple mechanism for enforcing support and action
- Different Action Plans : Pat
  - Cambridge, Newton
- Mayor Authority Letter : Mayor McCarthy
  - bulletin from Mayor to other departments to inform them about the initiative and open up communication
- Website : Eileen
- Contact List : Eileen
- Posting to Clerk : Eileen

The committee adjourned at 9:30PM.

**NOTE: Useful links for terms or businesses you might not be familiar with**

- ICLEI- Local Governments for Sustainability (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives): <http://www.icleiusa.org/>
- Stretch Code: <http://www.icleiusa.org/news-events/massachusetts-stretch-code-offers-higher-efficiency-building-code>
- Green Communities : <http://www.epa.gov/greenkit/index.htm>
- Citizens Energy: <http://www.citizensenergy.com/main/Home.html>
- NStar: <http://www.nstaronline.com/residential/>
- National Grid: <http://www.nationalgridus.com/>
- US Green Building Council (explains LEED on website): <http://www.usgbc.org/>