

Waltham Energy Action Committee

Thursday 7pm, May 10, 2012

Public Meeting Room, Government Center, 119 School St.

Minutes

Members Present:

Kathy Randel, Leo Keightley, Eileen Zubrowski

Others Present:

Jim Mniece

Amy Gortler

Stacy DeGabriele

agenda in [blue](#)

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

Accept April minutes – Kathy.

Please go to <https://sites.google.com/site/ceecaw/file-cabinet> and look under Meeting Minutes '12 to find the applicable file.

There was not a quorum so no action taken.

Goals and Priorities for next Five Years - Kathy

Due to not having a quorum at tonight's meeting, it was agreed that attendees would spend most of the time discussing this Topic. Kathy had distributed a draft of a document entitled: WEAC Priorities with the meeting agenda. She also brought some paper copies which were circulated.

- The document will be made available after further progress.

Individual Check-ins with Kathy as chair – how do you see your role on the committee, am I giving you what you need to succeed in that role, are there missing roles/skills on the committee, suggestions, appreciation – Kathy

no discussion

Transportation

- Complete Streets – Leo, Eileen, and Kathy attended – Kathy is contacting Tom Stanley who just announced money for street repairs to help determine a good next step

Kathy explained the Complete Streets organization and general concept of optimizing town/city streets for pedestrians, cyclists, and public transportation, as well as for cars.

Leo mentioned learning from the Watertown Complete Streets presentation and MassDOT Project Design and Development Guide about the use of shoulder stripes which may be a relatively simple and inexpensive way to enhance cycling on Waltham streets.

- Meeting with WLT to determine synergies and areas for collaboration – Eileen, Leo, Emily C., ?
The Rail Trail was discussed as an area of possible WEAC/WLT overlap in objectives. A small portion of the Rail Trail with surface improvement, would enhance proposed Waltham cycling routes. The entire Waltham Trail could be a destination for cyclists interested in walking the unimproved and improved portions.

- **Community Preservation Act meetings and use of CPA money for bike trail – Leo**
Leo mentioned the current restriction against CPA funding for improvement of non CPA purchased items (which would include the Rail Trail) and that this restriction is expected to change within a few (couple of) months.
- **Recommendations of additional bike racks with MAPC money to Jim Lacrosse – Leo**
Leo mentioned that I had emailed Jim, but had not received a response.
- **Jim Walker outreach re. Waltham and biking (Melissa)**
no discussion
- **Walk to school days – cheering students on, distributing brochures – Amy**
Amy has completed the necessary Cory Check and hopes to get involved next Wed. (16-May) or the following week.

Municipal Sustainability Efforts

- **List of existing Waltham R&D companies doing renewable and alternative energy by end of summer 2012 (Kathy had taken as a to do, would like someone else to pick it up)**
Jim will help with this.
- **Site Plan Reviews of other towns (Melissa took this, I believe)**
no discussion
- **Build relationships with Skip Bandini, Tim Kelly, Don Cusano, Mike Chiasson, Joe Pedulla, and new planning director to adopt energy reduction plan (Kathy and more people would be helpful here)**
Leo mentioned political as well as technical complications these people face and that they are positive about WEAC initiatives, but they are encumbered by multiple issues of which we are often not aware.
- **Kathy is watching Waltham Tribune for articles and notices that create an opening for energy efficiency/renewable energy measures such as refurbish work at McKenna playground and complaints about condition of muni center by new fire chief and last year's audit of that building (if others would like to help that would be great)**
Kathy mentioned energy efficient lighting for the McKenna playground and is trying to get response or feedback.
- **Interns**
 - **Eileen progress report**
Not much is happening.
 - **Laura Goldin at Brandeis is eager to provide us interns, not sure how to supervise them (Kathy)**
no discussion
 - **Add representative from Bentley to committee? (Kathy)**
no discussion

Energy Efficiency Efforts

- **NSL pilot project of PPA use for energy efficiency projects? (Kathy)**
no discussion

Communications/Outreach and Education

- **Facebook – Kathy, Stacey DeGabrielle – anyone else?**
There was some discussion of the WEAC Facebook site.
Leo asked about Twitter. Stacy suggested that applying Twitter to WEAC might be a good project

for an intern.

- New version of Mayor-approved brochure has arrived – where to distribute?

New item: Kathy suggested a WEAC picnic

people agreed it is a good idea.

Closing

Next Meeting – Thursday, June 14, 2012, 7pm-9pm - Public Meeting Room, Government Center, 119 School St.

The committee adjourned at 9:10 PM.