

# Waltham Energy Action Committee

Thursday 7pm, June 14, 2012

Public Meeting Room, Government Center, 119 School St.

## Minutes

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### Members Present:

Kathy Randel, Leo Keightley, Eileen Zubrowski, Melissa Downs, Emily Starr

### Others Present:

Stacy DeGabriele

Amy Gortlier

Emily Chambers

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agenda in [blue](#)

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

### **Accept April and May minutes.**

Please see [2012-m05-d10minutes draft1.pdf](#) and [2012-m04-d12minutes draft.pdf](#) in the File Drawers, Meeting Minutes 12 folder on the WEAC Google Site: <https://sites.google.com/site/ceecaw/> - Kathy

- Leo noted that the May minutes, regarding Goals and Priorities for next Five Years , contains the statement: "An annotated version of Kathy's document, including discussion points and suggestions, will be merged with these minutes." This annotated version is not yet available so the entry needs to be changed or the document produced.

It was agreed to simply state the document is in the process of revision and will be made available when it is further along.

- April minutes were accepted unanimously

### **Picnic – review of who's coming, who wants to bring what for the potluck - Kathy**

Kathy reviewed the list of people attending and suggested the format be pot luck. This was agreed upon and the following people volunteered as noted.

- Leo said he'd bring a veggie-salad.
- Melissa: Russo chicken wings
- Amy: hot dogs buns, and charcoal
- Emily: pasta salad
- Emily Chambers: beverages
- Stacy: paper goods
- Kathy: toys
- 12 to 20 people will be at the picnic

The location is the "Summer House Shelter"

### **Green Communities**

1. Description of included technologies of R&D facilities on Green Communities guidelines for Stephen – Mel

- Melissa is not sure how to present the rather abstract R&D related technical info in terms that would

make sense for this application.

- Mel said for Waltham: we're talking generally R&D, and not prototyping, manufacturing, or system testing.

The idea is that things won't tend to be problematic or dangerous.

## 2. Companies researching those technologies already existing in Waltham for Stephen – Jim (Q for Stephen, by when do you need this information?)

- Jim: not much progress yet. Thinking of checking with Chamber Of Commerce and network from there

## 3. Models for Site Plan review from other municipalities –Mel

- Mel found general info on how to rewrite zoning law and will check with Steve.
- Kathy mentioned Steve should supply when he needs the info (maybe September because that's when Council re-starts). Mel will see if she can get the info deadline from Steve.

## 4. Energy Reduction Plan - Kathy

- Kathy would like to meet with various stakeholders and discuss what should be in the plan.
- There was discussion of reasons (grants vs political commitment and motivation) for being a Green Community.

## Transportation and Bicycling Update

### 1. 128 Business Council – Leo and Eileen

- Leo and Eileen reviewed meeting, on 12-Jun with Monica Tibbits (Exec. Dir. 128 Bus. Council)
  - The Council has about 40 member companies (mostly in Waltham and Lexington)
  - There are about 100 bicycle commuters from these companies.
  - Monica is currently leading research into member company employees who commute via public transportation or bicycle.
    - The research is being done for the West Suburban CoC Sustainability Subcommittee
    - There is an ongoing survey of cycling routes
    - A significant focus of interest is on the need for sidewalks for bus commuters
    - The researchers have access to Waltham's "Planning GIS Layers" CAD files which include sidewalks.
  - Leo had asked Monica if there was need or interest in improving bicycle access from the 128 area to Waltham center. Monica said there was not.  
Leo noted to the WEAC that such access may be very interesting to Waltham Businesses as well as 128 area cyclists if simply identified.

### 2. Complete Streets – Leo and Kathy

- Mel: MAPC will do audits of streets.
- Judy is still trying to get a CS Training session in Waltham.
- Kathy suggested we might want to talk to Waltham's new Traffic Engineer.
- Eileen said to include Lisa Gerlach who has been filling in for Traffic Engineer since the post became vacant several years ago.

### 3. Bicycling Subcommittee – Eileen

- Eileen noted, as context for this subcommittee discussion, that in reviewing WEAC priorities, she and Kathy think Green Communities should be highest.
- Eileen agreed to lead the formation of the (Complete Streets) subcommittee.

- Potential members agreed they can meet monthly in addition to the WEAC meeting.

### **Ice Rink Update - Leo**

I noted that the geothermal proposal has been submitted to the Mayor.

### **Communication Update**

#### **1. Update on Communication Subcommittee meeting – Emily S.**

- The Subcommittee is developing a message to communicate to people (audiences).
- Priority audiences:
  - City elected officials and municipal employees
  - The Subcommittee noted we've been approaching a broader audience
  - Maybe WEAC should balance slow City work with more fast moving activities.
- It is hard to figure out what our priorities are. What we should be doing and where do interests lie?

#### **2. Web pages – Emily S.**

- Emily is Waiting for the person who is expected to be working on this

#### **3. Brochure Distribution – Eileen**

- no discussion

#### **4. WCAC-TV filming of Connors Pool – Eileen and Kathy**

- Melissa and Stacy will arrange getting cable tv to do this.
- Kevin Hollenbeck talked with Kathy about doing a filming and program.
- Our part is contacting Kevin, CableTV, and some choice of elected officials.

#### **5. Jim Walker outreach to WEAC – Mel**

- no discussion

#### **6. WEAC T-shirts? – Emily C.**

- no discussion

#### **7. Sally Collura show with Chamber Sustainability Committee - Eileen**

- do we want to have a special meeting to address this?

### **Continue discussion of WEAC Priorities that we started at April's meeting - Kathy**

An additional WEAC meeting to address priorities will take place on 11-Jul at 7PM.

### **Closing**

Next Meeting – Thursday, July 12, 2012, 7pm-9pm - Public Meeting Room, Government Center, 119 School St.

The committee adjourned at 9:15 PM.