

Waltham Energy Action Committee

Thursday 7pm, January 09, 2014

Public Meeting Room, Government Center, 119 School St.

Minutes

Members Present:

Kathy Randel, Leo Keightley, Eileen Zubrowski, Melissa Downes, Councilor Stephen Rourke

Others Present:

John Craig (WasteZero Inc.)

Mark Dancy (WasteZero Inc. (President))

Steve Lisauskas (WasteZero Inc.)

Bob Ferrone

Jim Mniece

Amy Gortler

Grace Babula .. add to template

Bill Fowler (councillor)

agenda in [blue](#)

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

Welcome

Eileen introduced WasteZero representatives, who added personal details themselves.

[John Craig from WasteZero to talk about trash/recycling collection strategies to increase recycling and reduce trash](#)

Note: WasteZero supplied paper copies of presentation slides and data showing that illegal dumping is more likely to decrease than increase with pay as you throw programs. The WEAC Recorder has a copy of each of these slide sets.

- WasteZero (WZ) makes the bags that are used in programs in which they are involved. That is how WZ makes money on these programs.
- WZ works as a partner with municipalities.
- Renters:
 - A debit card goes to the people who are designated to purchase the bags. If tenants buy bags, tenants get the rebates through their cards. If a landlord buys bags, the landlord gets the rebate. Actually it's on a household basis if a tenant holds the card. There is a personal id used to validate a rebate which has to be associated with the correct address. Landlords and tenants have to work out who holds the card for each household. Possibly there could be an ordinance specifying certain rebate details. The payment schedule is annual, but on any date. The actual transaction can be online or by telephone.
- bags:
 - The ones used to bag waste are not recycled. Plastic bags can be recycled, but it is a special process. Grocery stores, for example, may recycle plastic bags as a service.

- Illegal dumping doesn't increase.

Approve minutes from October, November and December meetings - Kathy

September and October minutes were approved with typographical corrections submitted by Eileen and Kathy.

Approval of December minutes will wait for people to review Eileen's notes on the waste collection discussion that occurred at the December meeting.

Trash/recycling collection - Eileen

- Concerning cost neutral pay as you throw, Leo suggested that landlords handle bag purchase and rebates. If tenants don't use official bags, waste won't be picked up. If tenants need more bags, the landlord has to work it out with them. If a landlord keeps the money and insists tenants buy their own bags, that could be a problem, but there could be some communication available to tenants concerning the number of bags that they should get for or the money they should receive for purchasing bags.
- Bob suggested we look at more companies than just WZ
- Eileen pointed out that we are also looking at a program using wheeled carts.
- In discussing the WZ approach to cost neutral, it was noted that they said they would use a 3rd party rebate company, but WZ has never actually implemented a cost neutral program. Municipalities considering cost neutral have always eventually gone for non cost zero.
- Eileen asked if we should make a recommendation to the Mayor. Steve said WEAC definitely should develop recommendation(s) for waste collection for the Mayor to consider when Waltham's Waste Collection goes out to bid.
 - Steve pointed out it might be possible to set up a contract so pay as you throw can simply be layered onto it. This way, a flexible waste collection program can be implemented in 2014 that will allow cost neutral (or not) pay as you throw to be added a few years later if desired.
- Bob mentioned bar coded totes (smart totes) for recycling for which people are paid for weight recycled. Also bar coded bags may be used.
- Bob also mentioned that recycling paper is more expensive than burning it for energy.
- Kathy suggested asking WZ to next month's WEAC meeting to present to the Mayor
- Eileen suggested we just present our own set of options with sample paper presentations from other companies.
- Asking WZ if they would consider doing a cost neutral pay as you throw pilot, for limited time & area, was discussed.
- Eileen suggested for next meeting to have WZ do a presentation and Bob and/or Carolyn Dann, MassDEP Municipal Assistance Coordinator, get(s) info from Smart Totes and automated carts (waste and recycling) which are programs that result in reduced waste. Maybe Carolyn could do a presentation also.
- Steve suggested we ask the Mayor if she wants anyone else from city to attend the meeting.

Energy Audit Outreach to 5+ Unit Buildings - Amy

Amy contacted an NStar 5+ Unit program manager and said WEAC wants to do outreach for 5+ Unit Buildings. NStar has contact with a vendor who does this type of work and can get a testimonial about what can happen. They may do marketing and may have database access to 5+ properties. Amy said in Waltham there are about 450 5+ properties and they are 80% locally owned.

Next Step Living's Solar Campaign Update - Eileen

JimMniece has written a letter about his PV system and in it talked about NSL's Waltham Solar Challenge. Jim is going to submit it to the Tribune for publication.

Eileen mentioned the 2 month extension of the Waltham Challenge program.

Eileen also mentioned that the City has purchased, with a block grant, 11 solar trash compacters that will be installed in 3 or 4 months.

WEAC's Twitter Account – Grace

Twitter activity has picked up: There are around 30 followers to date.

Kathy will forward ongoing WEAC Facebook info to Grace.

City Hall Energy Efficiency – Leo

Kathy and Leo met with Don Cusano (Maintenance Department, Clerk of the Works) on 18-Dec. '13 to brief Don on WEAC's recommendation to have two HVAC and building envelop feasibility studies, each, be performed on City Hall and Government Center. The studies had been described in a letter sent by WEAC to Mayor McCarthy in August '13. Results of the studies will specify energy savings upgrades to be included in bids for HVAC work at both buildings. The studies are modeled on two studies performed at the Lyman Estate which resulted in greater than 50% reduction in HVAC energy costs. Leo also provided PDF copies of the two Lyman Estate study reports to Don.

Kathy followed up with the Mayor and asked if there is anything we can do to follow up.

Green Communities – Kathy

Kathy asked the Mayor if Catherin Cagle can work with us to develop energy reduction plan. The Mayor agreed.

Kathy asked Brian Bower (Building Dept.) about affects of the Stretchcode and has tnot yet received a response. This is the 1st step in getting stretch code feedback. Mel's contact has not worked out.

Closing

Next Meeting – 7 PM, February 13, 2014 - Public Meeting Room, Government Center, 119 School St.
The committee adjourned at 9:05 PM.