

# Waltham Energy Action Committee

Thursday 7pm, April 10, 2014

6:30-7:00pm Newcomers

7:00-9:00pm

Public Meeting Room, Government Center, 119 School St.

## Minutes

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### Members Present:

Kathy Randel, Leo Keightley, Eileen Zubrowski, Melissa Downes

### Others Present:

Jim Mniece

Jacob Miller

Robin Brodsky (newcomer visitor .. did not attend the meeting)

Beth MacBlane

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agenda in [blue](#)

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

### [Approve Minutes from January and March Meetings - Kathy](#)

Dec, Jan, and Mar minutes are approved after changes are made, by 3 positive votes. Kathy did not vote because she had not read the minutes.

### [Changing the By-laws - Kathy](#)

Kathy passed out modified versions of the WEAC By Laws. There was discussion of both content and wording. It was decided that Kathy will make additional changes and distribute for vote at the May meeting.

### [Waltham Transportation Forums - Eileen](#)

<http://www.city.waltham.ma.us/home/events/8431>

- Eileen passed out a description of “Healthy Transportation in Waltham.” She also reviewed a program of walking, bicycling, and public transportation focused forums being led by Catherine Cagle (Director, Waltham Planning Department).
- There was discussion of the initial forum, which had already been held, and topics of future forums. Kathy said WEAC will put out dates of the remaining 2 forums on Facebook and Twitter.
- Melissa will call Catherine and ask if WEAC can assist in some way.

### [Stretch Code Survey – Kathy](#)

On Monday, 07-Apr, emails requesting participation in a web-based Stretch Code survey went out to a mailing list and City Councillors.

Melissa delivered fliers to businesses, using a list from the 2011 Stretch Code outreach to contractors. There is notification of the survey in the Tribune also.

### [Northeast Elementary School – Amy or Eileen](#)

Amy was not at the meeting. Eileen and Kathy provided information.

- Eileen: Last year Amy conducted a 4th grad lesson in the greenhouse effect. She contacted the school this year and the lesson is requested again as part of an environmental unit the science specialist is doing in the spring.
- Kathy was contacted by a 6th grader from the McDevitt Middle School who wants WEAC to do a presentation on energy efficiency. The student also asked if we can do audit of that school. Kathy said she will point to energy upgrades implemented recently at McDevitt by Skip Bandini, the previous Facilities Director. The student asked why McDevitt hadn't received solar panels as part of the recent installation on 6 other school buildings. Kathy found from Andy Green, who had led that project, that there were too many obstructions on the McDevitt roof. Kathy asked if anyone wants to speak at McDevitt: We will check with Amy to see if she would do a presentation.
- Leo suggested a distribution of the Ameresco web url where performance of the Waltham project installations are tracked. Leo will send this URL to the Google site WEAC distribution list.

### **Energy Audit Outreach to 5+ Unit Buildings - Amy**

Letters, with brochures, were sent from MassSave to owners of apartment buildings and condominiums in which there are five or more living units in a single structure.

MassSave wants to use this outreach effort as a case study.

### **Waltham Riverfest**

<http://www.walthamriverfest.com/>

- Kathy asked if we want to have a WEAC table at the Waltham Riverfest.
- People at the meeting were not convinced a table at Riverfest would provide results that would justify the effort. However, possible staffing of a table was discussed.  
Beth MacBlane said she will know next week if she can staff a table for 3 hours sat.
- Leo offered to make fliers available at the Farmers' Market "Information" tent.

### **Budget – Melissa**

- \$1,200 is in the City Budget for WEAC for next fiscal year (beginning July). Some receipts are still outstanding for this year's expenses.
- Melissa reviewed a few items and vendors for future expenses. It is encouraged that we use purchase orders (rather than using personal funds and submitting a receipt for reimbursement) for a vendor (like WB Mason) that the City routinely uses so that payment will be drawn directly from WEAC's funds.
  - For information and networking events, such as conferences, WEAC funds can be used to cover 50% of the event fees.
  - New WEAC banner
  - Anamometer for the WEAC display
  - There was discussion of various items we may want to purchase with remaining funds for this fiscal year.

### **Picnic - Kathy**

We decided to hold the picnic on Sun, 22-jun. We will check with people who are not present at today's meeting.

### **Grants - Eileen**

This item was included in case the Mayor stopped in to this meeting.

### **Additional Items**

- At 6:30 PM, before this WEAC meeting, newcomer, Robin Brodsky, discussed energy and Committee related topics with Kathy and Eileen.
- Laura Golden, from Brandeis, called Kathy about a class project for next Fall. The class will be doing community projects. One proposed project focuses on motor vehicle idling. Air quality testing or monitoring is another related possibility. Melissa suggested researching where Hubway sites might be located. Kathy has a couple of contacts who might want to participate with the Brandeis students. Jim suggested doing research on Complete Streets.
- Eileen passed around notes concerning the “Greenbelt Walk” Sat., May 17.
- We discussed the possibility of changing meeting time to accommodate another person who can't come on our normal times. 1st Tue was OK with people present. Kathy will check with others not at this meeting.

### **Closing**

Next Meeting – Thursday, May 8, 2014, 7pm-9pm

Public Meeting Room, Government Center, 119 School St.

The committee adjourned at 9:00 PM.