

Sustainable Energy Committee Minutes - December 16, 2011

Conference Room G - Town Hall

Committee Members Present:

Christopher Ketchen, Chair
Suzy Littlefield
Richard Joyce
Scott Bender
Robert Cooper
Ellen Korpi
Beth DeSombre
Molly Fairchild, Sustainable Energy Coordinator

Citizens' Speak: no one spoke

Minutes: from December 2, 2011 approved.

Leaf Blowers: Proposed bylaw change: Sara Preston presented a summary of the proposed citizen's petition for a By-law change for the regulation of gas-powered leaf Blowers. Ms. Preston explained that State laws restrict noise that is 10 decibels above the ambient level. The Town regulates noise on Sunday and before 8am Saturday. Current laws in the Country of Israel and state of Hawaii have a complete ban on leaf blowers. Regulations are based on both concerns about noise and emission.

In other communities there are other restrictions: Newton limits hours above 65 decibels, so would exempt electric leaf-blowers. California has an aggressive fine. Cambridge limits by dates, allowing 2 months in the spring and fall up to 65 decibels. Looking for a general sense – in supporting noise vs. particulate pollution, is being considered by Joan Gaughan of the NRC.

Mr. Ketchen recommended having one member from SEC assist, and also noted that having DPW included is very important, as they will have pragmatic concerns.

Wellesley College Update: Ms. DeSombre reported that Wellesley College is doing a campus building assessments – with Patrick Willoughby – that will be compliant with the stretch code – for renovation of buildings over the next few years, using Architects, Simms, Maney & McKee, who designed the new Green WHS.

Green Power Communities Campaign for renewable energy purchase

The NRC Ms. Korpi reported that Mary Gard presented to the NRC and they voted to enroll each Board Member or increase their level of participation and also meet the 5% renewable energy Goal for the municipality. They also offered to add a link on their own website to sign up for renewable power.

Town Website: Mr. Joyce suggested that we ask Brian DuPont to make a link on the main Town website – to the MLP Renewable power sign-up, now that we have 7.8 million kWh of renewable power from Spruce Mountain Wind available for purchase by VREP participants.

Town Meeting Members: Outreach network will be led by Molly, Suzy and Katy.

Town Energy use Feedback: The Committee agreed that the energy use feedback loop to departments should come from the Selectmens' Office. Letter from SEC to all Boards will be similar to TMM letter. Ms. Littlefield recommended not doing a special out-reach to Town staff as most are not residents.

Commercial Outreach: Mr. Joyce will continue outreach to encourage Large Commercial users to participate in the Towns' goal of becoming a Green Power Community, through increasing participation in the voluntary renewable energy Program.

Wellesley College: Ms. DeSombre will continue outreach to WC president leadership. Complexity is that WC makes all of its own power. Mr. Cooper mentioned that Sierra Club has top-ten list for colleges.

Materials: Ms Korpi reported that Phyllis Theermann is a great asset as a professional writer, and Ms. Fairchild is working on technical editing.

Tagline the "Power to choose" is being used to develop a logo for the VREP campaign.

Postcard: Phyllis and Suzanne have done a mock up of a postcard.

Bumper Sticker: is being developed by Beth and Scott and Molly. Ms. Littlefield mentioned a magnetic bumper sticker is preferred to a sticker, based on other Town-wide campaigns.

Door-to-door outreach by Sustainable Wellesley will be led by Quentin Prideaux, Lise Olne and Scott Bender.

Green Schools: Ms Korpi reported that Mary Gard and Phyllis Theermann of Green Schools are planning outreach with elementary Schools and the Curriculum Director, Becky McFall. There are also discussions with the Green Team at Dana Hall.

Ms Fairchild reported that during Green Week at the new WHS there will be a tour to describe the green elements of the design that is being prepared by Pamela Posey and other members of SMART, who advocated for the Green Design.

Ongoing outreach to other town organization: Ms. Korpi emphasized the need to continue to identify liaisons for outreach in other organizations in Town.

Mr. Joyce recommended a timeline and schedule to start making commitments.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:00 am

Next SEC Meeting: Jan 6th