

Sustainable Energy Committee Minutes – January 6, 2012

Conference Room G - Town Hall

Committee Members Present:

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

Citizen's Speak no one present

Minutes from 12/16/2011 - postponed

Ongoing Town Initiatives – Updates: Ms Fairchild reported that,

Stretch Energy Code was approved by Town Meeting last April, and as of January 2012 Wellesley is now in full compliance with this stronger state energy

Transportation, the Board of Selectmen approved the proposal of the Public Transportation Working group to Join the Metro-West RTA and establish a Transportation working group (TAG)

ICLEI membership clarification has been sent to Representative Peisch's Office in follow-up to a question regarding the international organization.

Application for Tree Planting Grant Information request from Michael Quinn (DPW). The application included a request for general information about Sustainability Plans Goals and Measurement, which has opened up a dialogue among Town Departments about collective goals and initiatives and collaboration.

Wellesley Farmers' Market will be a project of Massachusetts Horticultural Society, thanks to a generous grant from Gravestar.

EPA - Green Power Communities

Materials: Phyllis Theermann is continuing to help polish the materials from the content that is being developed for the Postcard, FAQs and talking points. And the LOGO is being developed with the tagline of "The Power to Choose".

Mr. Joyce reported that the MLP is preparing to do a direct mailing on the Renewable Energy Program and the 3 % renewable EPA-Green Power Communities challenge in February. The 7.8 million kWh purchase of power and REC's from Spruce Mountain Wind, in Maine, satisfies the

EPA so we are in full compliance to provide qualified renewable energy for the Voluntary Renewable Energy Program.

Networks for outreach: Ms Korpi reported that she has connected with members of the Wellesley Conservation Council, and Working Women's Group. Ms. DeSombre is connected to the Wellesley College Faculty and those in housing on and off campus in Wellesley. Ms Fairchild reported on a good turn-out and discussion, as usual, for the Sustainable Interfaith meeting on January 9th hosted by the Village Church. Sustainable Wellesley volunteers, Lise Oline, Quentin been done in Arlington and Brookline, to encourage participation in Town-wide Sustainability initiatives.

Time line for outreach on Renewable Energy Program: Ms Korpi indicated that the campaign would start at the end of February and continue into April, well timed with Annual Town Meeting, school vacations, Lent and the sense of "renewal" in Spring.

New Initiatives for consideration:

Town Website update: Mr. Ketchen reported that Brian DuPont of NIS was unable to attend so the Committee will proceed with a discussion about our requests for the Website.

Mr. Bender shared a copy of his home's national grid bill for natural gas use which included annual comparison data and comparison to neighbors, with two smiley face icons for his improvement, an example of an effective energy report: informative, clear and simple. The committee discussed the need for a short URL, so that mailings could include an easy to remember link. Mr. Bender emphasized the importance of having these websites be "sustainable" long-term connections to where to look for information on sustainability.

Solar Hot-water Project consideration was deferred based on preliminary research.

Leaf Blower initiative from Sara Preston: After a thoughtful discussion of the proposal at the previous SEC meeting from Sara Preston to propose a by-law change regarding commercially owned gas-powered Leaf blowers the Committee felt that it is a sustainable Energy issue and support the concept, and share the concerns for the problem, so would consider an educational campaign to help develop public awareness as a first step.

Meeting Adjourned 9:00 am

Next Meeting: January 20, 2012