

Sustainable Energy Committee Minutes – Sept. 7, 2012

Juliani Room- Town Hall

Committee Members Present:

Ellen Korpi, Chair
Richard Joyce
Jessica Langerman
Suzy Littlefield
Barbara Searle
Steve Tolley
Molly Fairchild, Sustainable Energy Coordinator
Absent: Scott Bender

Citizens' Speak: no one spoke

Ann Rappaport has joined us as the Liaison to the SEC from Advisory, and will be attending our meetings. Ann was part of the Ad hoc Green Ribbon Study Committee the original group that brought the motion for Sustainability to Town Meeting in 2009, and helped to prepare the sustainable WHS brochure and information for the New High School.

Minutes: Approved from 7/13/2012.

Debrief on EPA - Green Power Community Event on Sept 4th

The official Celebration of the designation of Wellesley as a Green Power Community by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was a successful event with an impressive turnout from Town leaders, the Colleges and the business community. Presentations were made by Ira Leighton, of the US-EPA and Richard Sullivan Executive office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. State Senator, Cynthia Creem, Representative Alice Peisch and Terri Tsagaris, Chair of the Selectmen also presented their congratulations to the community. The Town of Wellesley, Babson College, Mass Bay Community College, Wellesley College and Sun Life Financial were also recognized for their achievement as Green Power Partners, for their purchase of 5% renewable Power.

The press has carried the story, with stories on NPR, Channel 5, Channel 25, the Townsman and the Wellesley Cable Station. The Townsman's article will be used as a part of our marketing toolkit for *WellesleyRenewableEnergy*.

There was an informal meeting with Cynthia Greene of the EPA, preceding the celebration, to discuss what other communities are doing for sustainability such as the Green Building designation, for 10% reduction in energy intensity (Btu's/square-foot) of municipal buildings, using the EPA Energy Star Portfolio Manager software.

The first of six (brown bag lunch) meetings held by the Department of Energy Resources (DOER), with Meg Lusardi, will be next Thursday the 13th, on the topic is solar. Ellen Korpi, Jessica Langerman, Suzanne Newark and Trevor Criswell will attend.

Report from Solarize Wellesley Working Group.

Dick Joyce, coordinator of this initiative reported that working group met with the Deputy Director of the Concord Municipal Light Plant to learn more about the solarize program they are developing. They have already sent out an RFP and received a bid. The MLP will also talk with the Solarize Massachusetts program people from the State and with the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) to explore potential programs for Wellesley. Ellen is scheduling a second meeting with Meg Lusardi, who was so helpful in \$150,000 grant for MLP garage solar, to continue the discussion.

Report from Merchant Outreach Working Group.

Barbara Searle, coordinator of this initiative, is scheduled to discuss the Green Power Community Achievement and **WellesleyRenewableEnergy** at the Wellesley Square Initiatives meeting with local merchants, on Wednesday the 12th, 8-9:30 am. There will be another meeting on October 2nd with the Landlords. The Municipal Light Plant will also provide quotes for merchants who are interested in receiving a lighting audit or a full energy audit. The next MLP customer survey could also ask what the merchants value.

Report from Vampire Electric Working Group

Suzy Littlefield, coordinator of this initiative reported that she is working with Phyllis Theermann and Susan Morse of Green Schools to develop a worksheet for elementary students to take home as a treasure hunt for chunky plugs, Smart strips and other vampire awareness items that can be found at home. A contest for a drawing of a “friendly vampire” is also being developed to provide the logo for the Vampire. The working group will also meet with the WMS team to consider vampire initiative for WMS students. There will be a coordinated article for Townsman. Suzy and Ellen will talk with the two hardware stores to explore their interest in coordinating a promotion of smart strips, kill-a-watt meters and other vampire-protection technology, during the same week.

The Committee discussed that Cynthia Green of the EPA mentioned that Cable boxes can use as much electricity as a refrigerator. Both Comcast and Verizon have a Town agreement. Barbara Searle will research how long the current Town contracts runs with Comcast and Verizon. Ellen will research whether Energy-Star options are available in this region.

Report from Possible Energy Audit Report Improvements Working Group: Scott Bender, coordinator of this initiative was absent and this report was postponed.

Report on Municipal and School Energy Conservation.

Steve Tolley will begin coordinating this initiative in several weeks. Molly Fairchild presented a report on the Town’s Emissions that shows that as of the end of 6/30/12 municipal emissions had decreased 11% towards the 20% reduction goal, with an additional 2% expected from the commitment to start purchasing 5% renewable power in FY13. Town-wide emissions as of 12/31/11 have been reduced 8% towards the 10% reduction goal by the end of 2013. A summary of these reports will be included in the Annual Report.

Discussion on the SEC’s input on 900 Worcester Street project.

As part of the Selectmen’s process of considering alternate uses for the 900 Worcester Street property, if it is purchased, the committee considered, but rejected, the option of using of the land for renewable energy generation.

The Committee appointed Suzy Littlefield as the SEC liaison to the 900 Worcester Street project, as she **on the committee and co-chair of the Pool Sub-committee**. Suzy reported that the rink sub-committee visited a rink in Falmouth that has solar panels.

The high energy use of both a pool and skating rink was discussed, and their exemption from stretch energy code regulations as unusual use buildings. The recommendation was made to consider the use of Energy Life-cycle cost in the design of these buildings. Molly Fairchild will draft a description for the committee to consider for the next meeting. The draft will be sent to the committee a week before our next meeting. The recommendations of the SEC regarding 900 Worcester, will be sent as a letter to Barbara Searle.

Concept draft for SEC Report for “Town Report - July 1 2011 to June 30, 2012”

The report will include a brief summary of the work by the committee, including: SEC Mission Statement; Membership; Sustainable Wellesley Expo October 2011; *WellesleyRenewableEnergy* Initiative; and the Progress Reports on the 10% Town-wide Emissions Reduction and the 20% Municipal Emissions Reduction.

Other business:

The Committee discussed considering a motion for Town Meeting 2013 to present current Emissions Reduction progress to goals for FY13, and gain further support to meeting these goals, and setting future goals. This will be discussed at the next SEC meeting, in advance of meeting with Advisory on October 24th.

Materials should be sent, through Ann, to Advisory a week in advance, with a powerpoint presentation for the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned 9:10 a.m.

Next SEC Meeting; October 5th (first Friday of each month)