

WE3C Minutes 11/13/13 mtg, 7:30 p.m., 3rd Floor Conf. Rm.

Present: Ken Mirvis, Chair, Stephane Acel-Green, co-chair, Lauri Murphy, Greg Beach, Brian Hebeisen, Terese Hammerle, Meredith Fields

Guest: Julie Wood, Senior Scientist, Charles River Watershed Assoc. (CRWA)

Absent: Matt Riegert

1. Minutes from 10/7/13 meeting pending. Ken will check on.
2. Update on CEC Strategies grant to study local renewable energy resources: Chad Laurent postponed follow-up public meeting in order to do more analysis of technical information already gathered. Date for meeting to be determined, Ken will call Chad for update.
3. Update on NSL (Next Step Living) activities: Stephane is now WE3C liaison to NSL, replacing Peter Brooks. Statistics at end of October: 270 home energy efficiency assessments completed YTD; 389 scheduled YTD. Outreach continues at supermarket, Russo's, flu shot clinics. John Massie from NSL talked with Stephane about NSL doing educational workshops for renters and landlords. Stephane will follow-up with John. Brian suggested NSL presentation to Green Sanctuaries at Unitarian-Universalist Church, will follow up and co-ordinate with Stephane and John.
4. Solarize Grant application: Ken and Stephane reported Matt has done great work researching and preparing the application; presentation was done yesterday. Decision will be announced early December. Stephane thought more work could be done going forward on marketing plans.
5. Thermal Imaging Proposal update: Ken wrote to town regarding proposal discussed at Sept WE3C mtg, process is moving forward.
6. Julie Wood from CRWA described river contamination concerns. She has been in contact with Gerry Mee at DPW. Meeting was held with engineers 2 mos. ago concerning recurrent spikes in coliform bacteria readings (indicating sewage is entering the river) found at river monitoring sites in Watertown (at the footbridge above the dam, at North Beacon St bridge, and at Arsenal St bridge). Causes of coliform contamination of the river can be pipe misconnections, pipe failures and contamination of storm drain water that flows into the river. Town does investigations of outflow pipes with high readings to track down sources and fix problems. There was discussion of short-term (spikes in readings sometimes occur in wet weather, etc) and long-term issues, and of including the storm water committee in discussions. Ken will talk with Gerry Mee as next step.

6. Mercury subcommittee update: Terese, Greg and Stephane have drafted a letter to DPW regarding the need for public education about the importance of mercury collection and recycling. Stephane will forward the draft to Ken for review.

7. Next mtg: Mon, 12/16/13, 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Fields