

Minutes WE3C meeting 3/7/12

Present: Ken Mirvis, chair, Lauri Murphy, Matt Riegert, Vihann Kong, Terese Hammerle, Meredith Fields

1. Minutes 2/8/12 meeting approved.
2. ESCo update: no current info.
3. LED streetlights are being installed.
4. Green Communities grant application due 3/23. A subcommittee including Ken Mirvis, Brian Hebeisen, Doug Denny-Brown, Charlie Bering, Meredith Fields and Dave Beavers met to consider options allowed for this grant. Under consideration were 1) electric or electric-hybrid vehicles and charging stations, and 2) solar water-heating installations at the fire station and police station. Next step is Ken will consult with Raeleen Parsons and Michael Driscoll about town vehicle fleet and fuel costs, fire station and police station hot water, and also whether upgrades to boilers could be considered for this grant.
5. Ken reported that Stephane is working on Demand Response to decrease electricity use during peak times. The town is interested. Vihann also interested and will contact Stephane. Enernoc and Constellation both do this work. Enrollment deadlines for incentive programs up-coming are May 14 for June 1, and April 11 for May 1.
6. Terese reported that she talked with school committee member David Leon about possible environmental projects with the schools. She also contacted the headmaster at the high school about possibly forming a brainstorming team including staff and students. Ken is interested in being involved. Other resources mentioned were Brian Hebeisen, Peter Brooks, Common Earth Watertown, Watertown Community Gardens and the Recycling Committee. Terese will organize a preliminary brainstorming session.
7. Meredith reported on the Solarize MA Webinar regarding the grant offered to Green Communities for facilitating PV installations. Deadline to apply is 3/23. The grant offers kW rate incentives and \$2000 for materials and some assistance with community presentations. The community would need to provide the resources (volunteer time) to identify contractors, provide community education, and recruit among homeowners and businesses over the spring and summer for PV solar installations to be done in the fall. A "solar coach" would need to be designated to act as the coordinator and primary driver of the project. The committee regrets that it does not have anyone with the necessary time (estimated at 100-200 hrs) available to act as the "solar coach." It was decided to forgo this opportunity at this time.

8. A Memorandum of Understanding between the town and Next Step Living has been reviewed by Charlie Bering and Ken Mirvis, and by Travis at NSL. Next it will go to the town attorney for review and then to Mike Driscoll.

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Fields