

WE3C Minutes 2/12/15 Meeting, 7 p.m., Lower Conf Room, Town Hall

Present: Ken Mirvis, chair, Stephane Acel-Green, co-chair, Brian Hebeisen, Lauri Murphy, Matt Riegert, Meredith Fields

Absent: Zach Zevitas, Kevin Doyle

1. Minutes 1/22/15 meeting approved.
2. CEC grant for solar survey: Ken reported no news/developments since 1/22/15 meeting (see minutes 1/22).
3. Town Energy Manager: Ken reported no further news on hiring (see minutes 1/22).
4. Green Communities report: Need to meet 5-year goal of 20% carbon reduction. Information is needed about required format and data. Matt will help with collecting data for the report.
5. Harvard interns meeting: Ken to attend meeting on 2/17 with Zach's course members about projects. Brian will write up brief description as planned (see minutes 1/22).
6. Town Design Standards: Stephane reviewed current proposal and discussed opportunity for WE3C input into proposed ordinances and language. Proposed standards recommend zoning ordinance changes including reducing parking requirements by 25% for new residential construction, tripling number of bike spaces, mandating shared parking plans across multiple properties for more efficient use of parking spaces, requiring new building to meet LEED standards at a minimum, requiring solar feasibility assessment for all mixed-use property, requiring landscaping with native and drought-tolerant plantings. There was discussion of turning some recommendations into ordinances and further specifying requirements such as what qualifications needed for solar feasibility studies. Stephane and Brian will review current proposals together and forward suggested changes to Gideon Shreiber, Asst Town Planner, prior to upcoming joint meeting of Planning Board and Town Council. Other WE3C members may forward suggestions to Stephane and Brian.
7. NSL complaints: Stephane will develop survey, co-ordinate with councilor Aaron Dushku and NSL liaison Malcolm Bliss. Stephane will convey to NSL that committee be notified of any complaints. Ken reviewed that except for Solarize project in 2014 there has been and is no exclusive relationship with NSL; NSL and other weatherization companies are welcome to seek work in town and that committee supports goal of increasing energy efficiency.

8. Cape Wind update: Lauri reviewed regional efforts to salvage project, reporting on hopes to persuade National Grid to re-sign with Cape Wind. Rally is planned for Boston Common on 2/28 1-2:30 p.m.

9. Watertown dam: Ken reported Sasaki interested in developing small hydro at dam, many elements needed are already present, potential project for a Harvard intern.

Next meeting: 3/23/15, 7 p.m.

Future meetings: 4/13, 5/18, 6/15, 7/13/15

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Fields