

WE3C Minutes 11/14/12, 7:00 p.m., Third Floor Conf. Rm., Town Hall

Present: Ken Mirvis, chair, Peter Brooks, Lauri Murphy, Matt Riegert, Janet Buck, Doug Denny-Brown, Terese Hammerle, Meredith Fields. Guest: John Massie from Next Step Living (NSL)

Members absent: Stephane Acel-Green, Raeleen Parsons, Brian Hebeisen

1. Minutes approved, 10/24/12 meeting.
2. Ken reported that he and Charlie Bering attended an "Open Meeting Laws" meeting last week and noted that minutes must include date, time, place, members present and members absent.
3. Ken reviewed Green Communities Clean Energy Strategies program to help communities assess clean energy efficiency opportunities. Four Green Communities will be selected for a pilot program with each community to receive a grant of \$100,000. Webinar on the program will be held 11/16. Deadline for questions is 11/23, for letter of intent 11/30, for final proposal 12/21/12. Selected communities will be announced 1/11/13. Ken will email program announcement to WE3C members.
4. Charlie Bering and Ken are working on arranging a program/presentation on climate change (see 10/24/12 minutes).
5. Ken reported Bob Airasian from Chamber of Commerce wants to do Energy Expo. Subcommittee to follow up includes Ken, Stephane, Janet, Terese, Matt.
6. John Massie from Next Step Living reported on activities in Watertown. So far, prior to the current memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the town, NSL has received over 300 energy assessment requests, 147 assessments have been scheduled, and 20 homes have been weatherized. Statewide, NSL is now doing about 40% of energy assessments for MassSave. NSL currently does only residential work, in buildings of 1 to 4 units. (Programs for businesses and larger residential buildings are offered by MassSave.) NSL does home audits and then works as a general contractor to provide services. John does marketing and outreach for NSL. There was discussion of strategies to get the word out in town about what NSL offers. Suggestions included contacting clergy, churches, Sustainable Watertown, the Senior Center, Rotary, Boys and Girls Club, PTO's, Scouts, Little League, Arsenal Center for the Arts. There were also ideas about dovetailing with the Chamber of Commerce plan for an Energy Expo and with the climate change presentation being organized by Ken and Charlie (#4, above) that NSL might co-sponsor. Other ideas included informational inserts in water bills, holding a raffle for an audit and weatherization, posting NSL information and links on websites. Terese will co-ordinate regarding the websites. Further ideas and suggestions should be forwarded to John. A press release will be drafted.

7. Ken has written an article for the Tab on his own experience upgrading boilers at his home; he will include information about NSL in the article.
8. Stephane and Vihann Kong have been in touch about demand response project to lower electricity usage during peak demand times. If enrollment were pursued it would be in spring at the earliest.
9. Next meeting: Tuesday Dec. 4, 7:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Fields