

WE3C Minutes, January 13, 2014, 7 p.m., 3rd floor conf. rm., Town Hall

Present: Ken Mirvis, chair, Stephane Acel-Green, co-chair, Terese Hammerle, Matt Riegert, Brian Hebeisen, Aaron Dushku, Charlie Bering, Meredith Fields

Absent: Lauri Murphy, Greg Beach

1. Minutes from Dec 16, 2013 mtg. accepted.
2. CEC Energy Forum 201 held at the library on 1/9 was discussed. Ken, Aaron, Terese and Brian were among estimated 50-60 attendees including several town officials. They described good participation and interest in 4 expert-driven sessions that were offered. Eleven goals were presented that had been developed by the consultant, Meister Assoc. The sense of the attendees from WE3C was that there was not yet a final recommendation, but that the process had already engaged the town and had improved communication networks regarding energy savings and renewable energy resources. As an example, Aaron spoke of interest in exploring adding solar installations to up-coming town roofing projects.
3. Green Community annual report needed to be submitted to DOER. Ken contacted Steve Magoon about submitting report in Raeleen's absence.
4. Grant application for a town energy manager is due on 2/14. The grant would provide \$50K toward a full-time manager the first year, \$35K the second year. Town needs to provide plan and 5% commitment, position would include educating community and schools about energy in addition to primary responsibility of town energy management. Ken expects that the position would save the town more money in the long run than it would cost to fund it. Ken and Stephane will develop a work plan for getting the application done.
5. NSL (Next Step Living) update: Stephane reported data provided by John Massie for 2013. 422 home energy assessments were done (original goal of 600), 101 assessments resulted in work being done, a rate of about 25%. As a result, Watertown saved an estimated 311 metric tons of carbon from going into to atmosphere and almost \$82,000 in energy costs to residents. Meredith asked if this information could be publicized to inform the community. NSL continues canvassing at Russo's, RMV, and Stop and Shop. Stephane will invite John and Travis Estes to discuss goals for 2014.
6. Solarize Watertown: Matt is organizing 101 forum on Feb 5, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the library. Ken said an announcement on Patch was needed, Terese will help with this. Ken and Matt will co-ordinate on fliers to be available, via Aaron, at the MLK breakfast. Brian will work on recruiting solar PV homeowners who might give brief testimonials at the meeting. CEC will do the main presentation and describe solar PV, tiered pricing, and options for homeowners to buy or lease. Several installers

have already submitted proposals that are being vetted by CEC and by our review committee of Matt, Ken and Raeleen Parsons. Interviews with installers will be conducted next week, with selection likely made prior to the 101 forum.

7. CFL's and mercury collection: Unfortunately, DPW calendar did not include information that mercury (including CFL's) collection is available at the DPW in addition to the Recycling Center. There was discussion of the need for an education campaign regarding mercury-containing items (CFL's, fluorescent lights, thermostats, etc) and that all such items need to be collected and recycled. Possible ways to get the word out include sandwich boards at DPW and center of town, and an insert in water bills. Ken will discuss sandwich boards with Gerry Mee. Terese met with Kristel Bennett, environmental officer at health dept; Terese will follow-up with Kristel regarding drafting an insert for water bills. Issue will also be raised with DPW subcommittee.

8. Charles River coliform contamination update: Awaiting hiring of a town engineer. There are several applicants for Storm Water Committee. Meeting with Newton DPW, Watertown DPW subcommittee, CRWA (Chas. River Watershed Assoc.) and Storm Water Committee TBA.

9. Tax Abatement: Aaron has been researching the question of tax abatements for LEED certified buildings, noting that Cincinnati has been a pioneer in this. There was discussion of possible help or experience in this area from Green Communities, Brian will call Joanne at GC for information.

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Fields