

Minutes of WEAC Meeting, Thursday, 20th October 2011

Attendees:

- Peter Kane, chairman
- Vicki Quiram, Director of Public Works, Town of Westwood
- Pamela Kane
- Maria Constantini
- Wendy Muellers
- Claire Sullivan
- Tom Philbin
- Jan Galkowski, recording secretary

The meeting was called to order by Peter Kane at 1939 ET. Minutes of the September 16 meeting were reviewed. Mr Philbin moved that they be accepted as written, Ms Muellers seconded.

Town of Westwood Director of Public Works Vicki Quiram provided an update. She identified areas where WEAC could work with her:

- Bicycle-Pedestrian Master Plan involves multiple communities, such as Dedham, as well as Hale Reservation. A grant application has been made.
- Pat Scanlon from [Wheelabrator](#) offered to provide sheds for mercury-added products, including fluorescent lamps. Ms Sullivan pointed out that such a shed provides a valuable service, and needs to be secured and supervised, also recommending that containers be supplied for the schools for fluorescent tubes, and they could be picked up with the residential items.
- Billions of dollars of infrastructure replacement will be needed throughout the United States in the near future. Ms Quiram is on the board of the [Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure](#) ("ISI's purpose is to help engineers to look at their projects from a sustainability perspective. Not only do projects need to be done the right way, but the right projects need to be done.") Copies of presentations were provided.
- Analogous to the LEED system, ISI is advocating a ratings system and a process model for building projects nationwide. Sustainability professionals walk engineers, developers, and municipalities through the process, teaching how to ascertain what is being affected by the project. It is concerned with large projects, but the idea could be applied at the Town level.
- Ms Quiram would like the Town of Westwood to join the ISI.

Tom Philbin stated that Westwood's schools are the Town's largest energy consumers, and that there are grants and loans to make schools more efficient with insulation, heating and electricity upgrades, which pay back within a reasonable time. These savings can be used to reduce energy usage. Ms Quiram indicated that DPW does not have authority over the schools, but there are buildings operated by DPW that could have their energy usage reduced.

Audits and reports: Energy usage was monitored and recorded for one year, but WEAC has been unable to obtain documentation since about 2008. Monitoring data are key for making better use of energy and indeed are essential for *any* process improvement.

Tom Philbin will be forward members of the 9th January 2009 report which listed the major energy-consuming buildings owned by the Town of Westwood.

There remains an ongoing need to collect data on energy consumption by municipal buildings. There was an agreement from the Town Selectmen that this should be done, but it hasn't been implemented. Jan Galkowski recommended such data be available to the public in spreadsheet or comparable form. Mr Kane proposed that WEAC go for a Warrant Article directing Town departments to record energy consumption data. Much of this data ought to be available in electronic records as they are. It needs to be integrated, as was being done by a WEAC intern and by the Office of the Town Clerk.

Status of the efficient fuel use policy: DPW and other departments receive Public Safety Crown Victorias as "hand-me-downs", which are not fuel-efficient. Improving efficiency in vehicles and buildings has a much

larger impact on both costs and greenhouse gas emissions than conversions to renewable energy, stated Mr Philbin. This is an important element of the Stretch Code, which many towns near Westwood have adopted.

Several nearby towns have received substantial funding while achieving Green Community status. Contrary to the concerns raised about pursuing this by some Selectmen, WEAC believes many Green Communities have not seen their development of malls, plazas, and other economic structures be impeded as a result of it. The monies available to Green Communities funds additional measures which result in long-time cost savings. Lists of monies received by nearby towns, such as Dedham, were provided. The problem is finding documentation of this pattern. 95 towns in the Commonwealth have adopted the Stretch Code, 74 have been designated Green Communities. Ms Kane spoke with (Selectman) Nancy Hyde, and would like to try for Green Communities status this year. Hyde is concerned that this might impede development of Westwood Station. Hyde suggested we speak with Chris McEwen (sp?). Mr Kane supposed Westwood's Finance Committee would support the proposal; Mr Philbin noted that Stretch Code would not affect Westwood Station at all because the stores coming in already exceed Stretch Code requirements. Research labs and supermarkets are exempted. There is an action to track down which companies are Stretch Code compliant. (See http://www.cityofboston.gov/Images_Documents/EOEEA%20q_and_a_stretch_code_tcm3-21504.pdf for a starter, although this may be as much a legal and engineering question as one of scholarship.)

Ms Quiram reported on the status of the new Solid Waste contract, which will be taken to the Board of Selectmen very soon. The current contract expires in March 2012. Ms Quiram met with Waste Management, Inc ("WM"), the holders of the current contract, which proposed automated collection using special carts at the same rate as or less than current. Terrain and weather are manageable according to WM, which uses automated collection in many tougher places, such as Brookline. Ms Sullivan recommended that WM should own the carts, and there should be RFID or other mechanism to identify where each cart belongs. Trash would likely be limited to one cart per household, with the option to purchase overflow bags. There could be a "bulky waste day" twice a year, for large items.

Ms Quiram discussed sharing recycling profits with them (?). Ms Sullivan suggested asking WM for pricing for weekly recycling using 64 gallon cart, as the cart system would likely reduce trash by 10%-15%, saving a lot of money. If it is decided to switch to automated collection, Ms Quiram would want to stay with WM rather than going out to bid. DPW plans to buy more compost bins through MassDEP for purchase at reduced cost by residents.

There is a problem that Westwood has no regulations or ordinances pertaining to trash collection and household responsibilities. DPW may need to draft regulations regarding the set out of trash and recyclables, the Selectmen need to approve. WM will advise, and she will get copies other towns' contracts for waste-recycling pickup.

Offered assistance with Saturday's Hazardous Waste Day. Ms Quiram would welcome help with traffic or other matters. 8 a.m. to noon. Clean Harbors is charging by carload and half-carload. This is opportunity to speak to attendees about recycling and other pertinent matters. Town of Westwood's Web site has a PDF (unfortunately) giving the original (wrong) date for the Hazardous Waste Day in it.

Analyses of High School energy consumption done by Mr Philbin and Mr Galkowski were presented. Mr Galkowski is analyzing results of trash and recycling collection tonnages by collection route, data provided by Waste Management.