

# **Westwood Environmental Action Committee**

## **minutes 2/16/2012**

Attendance: peter Kane, Pam Kane, Tom Philbin, Jan Galkowski, Claire Sullivan, Michael Vanin, Maria Constantini, Wendy Muellers

Review of Selectmen's Meeting: DPW Director Quiram presented proposal on new trash/recycling collection contract. Each household will receive one-64 gallon cart for trash, 96 gallon cart for recycling, option to purchase additional cart at \$150/year.

Extending current contract thru June, then automated weekly trash, biweekly recycling, Waste Management. Ask WM to offer to collect and recycle existing bins and trash cans. WEAC will help with education and rollout. Selectmen review revised trash regulations.

Claire met with Ken Aries and Paul Curry (Bay State Textiles) on textile collection at schools. BST pays \$100/ton for textiles. Ken is interested, will discuss with principals, propose September start.

Stretch code: Selectman Nancy Hyde, Fire Chief Scoble, Town administrator Mike Jaillet, DPW Director Vicky Quiram, Peter Kane, Tom Philbin, met on Green Communities, STRETCH Code, and efficient vehicle use policy.

Peter requested costs on conversion of police vehicles to civilian use, auction value, typical mileage, scrap value, lifetime, etc. Selectman Nancy Hyde wants real numbers. Will probably cost money up front to invest in fuel efficient vehicles, getting longer range returns. Issues with silos of budgets. What's good for the Town may not be good for (e.g.) Westwood DPW.

Discussion ensued regarding how to arrange arguments and estimate payback period for justifying fuel efficient vehicles.

Tom Philbin observed 20% of the buildings in the Town account for 80% of the energy, including schools.

LED lighting for schools, street lighting has greatest potential for additional energy savings.

Lawsuit at Westwood HS regarding builder that walked is holding up energy efficiency work on HVAC system. Hope it is settled in summer, 2012.

Peter: STRETCH Code benefits -residential: Better built buildings, 3rd party verification, good selling point. Commercial - similar, paybacks less than two years, competitive advantage. GE Capital Real Estate did a study showing non-green buildings cost 8% more to operate, including maintenance costs, utilities, and rent. Lower occupancy, net 13% greater cost than "green" buildings.

Energy measurement and reporting standards being imposed upon cities and towns. If energy efficiency isn't a consideration, will be at a competitive disadvantage. Large companies have efficient standards. Everything Wegman's builds is beyond STRETCH Code. Burlington and Newton are building Wegmans, and they are STRETCH communities.

Chris McKeown is opposed concerned about impact to building; on the Economic Development Committee. More stringent building and energy standards coming in 2013 anyway, and "we'll have this anyway", so why impose additional costs? No 3rd party verification in new standards, and no Green Community grants if not adopted.

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Fire Chief Scoble is concerned as a builder, cost and time, not about fire safety. Conflict of interest? Showed up on official Town agenda and business.

Stretch code warrant article will be discussed by Finance Committee on 2/27. Peter will present.

Tom Philbin reports NSTAR-related contractors are being urged not to bother marketing to non-Green Communities towns.

EARTH DAY IS 22nd APRIL 2012. Wendy is organizing the annual town wide litter cleanup. DPW providing trash bags, will pick up roadside. Recycling bags? Different colors (blue, yellow, need to label, inform volunteers what goes in, figure out how to get to Waste Management. [www.keepourtownclean.com](http://www.keepourtownclean.com) . 65 public sites available.

Discussed event to celebrate Earth Day. Wendy will contact Chris Gallagher.

Next meeting March 15th, 2012.