

Minutes WE3C meeting 5/13/13, 7 p.m., Town Hall 3rd flr. Conf. rm.

Present: Ken Mirvis, chair, Stephane Acel-Green, co-chair, Terese Hammerle, Peter Brooks, Matt Riegert, Lauri Murphy, Jaime Haber, Charlie Bering, Meredith Fields
Guests: John Massie and Sal Tripoli, both from NSL (Next Step Living)

Absent: Raeleen Parsons, Brian Hebeisen

1. Minutes approved 4/8/13 meeting.
2. Update on WISE (Watertown Initiative to Save Energy, a partnership between NSL and the town for home weatherization and energy savings):
 - a. 68 homes have now been weatherized, with estimated annual savings of \$51,000 and 200 tons of carbon. The approximately 25% rate (68 of 270) of weatherizations to assessments is much higher than the industry standard.
 - b. Sal Tripoli reviewed on-going WISE outreach efforts and also anticipated creating WISE outreach events. The Local First drawing for all assessment participants through the end of May will happen in June. Discussion of outreach opportunities included the town Summer Concert Series, Arsenal Center for the Arts, faith organizations, DPW recycling days. Ken will contact persons at concert series and at Arsenal to connect to NSL. Terese will send email to link to DPW.
 - c. Peter Brooks who is committee/town liaison to NSL will be leaving Watertown late summer. We will need a committee member to replace him.
 - d. A letter of endorsement from WE3C for WISE is in process. NSL is now planning that they will obtain this sort of letter elsewhere and develop a collection for potential clients to review.
 - e. NSL is interested in outreach regarding home solar installation. There was discussion of the committee's hope for a Solarize grant for the town next year. The Solarize program obtains lower rates according to the number of installations. It was hoped that any installations preceding a Solarize grant could count toward the anticipated Solarize effort. Matt and John will coordinate regarding this and find out if any information is available from CEC on this question.
3. Follow-up discussion of Sol Solutions meeting with WE3C last month: Ken has been in touch with Jon; Raeleen has requested data from the schools. Stephane expressed concern that Sol Solutions is a very early start-up. Ken liked their business model and wants to support it if possible. Committee will continue to explore.
4. Clean Energy Grant to examine opportunities for renewable energy in town: Ken met with Steve Magoon and Chad Laurent from CEC. An advisory committee made up of town and other officials (such as DCR) as well as leaders of local organizations (including business, environmental, arts, faith and volunteer organizations) will be convened. The advisory committee will then plan a public meeting for town-wide discussion of ideas and opportunities.

5. Mercury subcommittee of Stephane, Terese and Greg had its first meeting. Stephane and Greg will look into what other towns are doing and Greg will research state guidelines. Terese will research what Watertown is doing currently. The subcommittee hopes to develop recommendations once information is collected. There is need for public education, and a Tab article is hoped when recommendations are made.

6. Electric Vehicles Program has been launched by the state with a preference for Green Communities, applications due by June 30. Grants would provide \$7500 per hybrid vehicle, \$5000 per plug-in, and \$15000 for charging station. First step is to check with Raeleen about what fleet up-grades are needed this year. Jaime and Ken will follow up.

7. Terese reported that the Recycling Committee is trying to make progress on pairing town trash and recycling bins in public locations since separate locations result in misuse of each type of bin. Ken will contact Parks and Recreation officials.

8. Next meetings: June 3, July 8

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Fields