

Chevy Chase Climate Protection Committee
Minutes of 27 February 2007 meeting, prepared by Dian Seidel

The meeting was held in the Leland Center meeting room.

Attendees: Carla Graeff, Betsey Haddad, Betsy Johnson, Andy Knauss, Lynn Lichtenstein, Jules Lichtenstein, Judy McGuire, Dian Seidel, Stuart Sessions, Christine Real de Azua.

1. The committee discussed options for leadership during Judy's absence, late March to mid September 2007. A decision was taken for Dian Seidel to serve as interim chair while Judy is away.

2. Judy informed the group of her main contacts with Town officials and staff members on various issues. These include:

Rob Enelow – Council liaison to committee

Belinda Wilborn – arranging meeting places, articles for Forecast

Dave Walton – access to Town data

Andi Silverstone – finances, compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs)

Ted Pochter – new deputy Town Manager

3. Dian reported that she attended a reception for new Town residents on January 28 hosted by mayor Linna Barnes. She made a short presentation on the committee's activities and distributed CFLs to attendees.

4. The committee discussed ongoing activities and agreed on the following work plan and assignments for the next 6-8 months.

a. Assessment of Town greenhouse gas inventory. Stuart is leading this effort. Stuart and Judy have sought funding for a high school student assistant (which was agreed to by the Council, which was also meeting the same evening). Based on analysis thus far, data collection for most aspects of the assessment will be relatively straightforward. Two aspects are more challenging: (i) assessing home energy use in 1990 and present and (ii) assessing biomass/land use in 1990 and present. In both cases, partnering with other local jurisdictions and Montgomery County may be our best option. For the home energy use item, information from Town residents who maintain household records is also highly desirable. Stuart plans to hire the assistant early in March, complete all data collection (except possibly on the two items above) by the end of March, and prepare a draft assessment report by May 1.

b. Home visits. Andy, Betsy, Betsey, and Judy have made a number of visits to distribute CFLs and information sheets, discuss climate change, and gauge the interests of residents in taking action. Ruth Fort and Lisa Horwitz have volunteered to help. Andy agreed to lead this effort. By June 1, the group plans to (i) determine how many households have already been contacted and create a record of these visits, (ii) contact an

additional 100 households, beginning with those who have picked up CFLs at the Town office. Judy agreed to follow up with residents who picked up bulbs in the office.

c. Street lights. The Town's purchase of offsets for renewable energy for the electricity to power street lights will expire this spring. Christine agreed to draft a proposal to the Council to ensure we continue to purchase the offsets through 2007 and we are connected with regional partnerships to negotiate renewable energy for 2008. These plans could change if pertinent legislation is passed at the state level.

d. Monthly column in the Forecast. The committee agreed to continue these columns, for which we have had some good feedback from residents. Topics and writing assignments are:

- April – Judy McGuire – water usage/conservation and its relation to climate change
- May – Betsy Johnson – summary of Maryland legislative initiatives on climate change
- June – Christine – residents' options for purchasing 'green tags' (renewable energy offsets) and the Town's purchase of green tags for powering street lights
- July – Dian – composting
- August – no Forecast
- September – Carla – recycling and composting
- October – Dian – summary of committee activities, including home visits (sharing ideas)

We agreed to re-run the article on air conditioning use which was published last fall as a backup, if needed, and to include a call for volunteers for the home visits each month.

e. Lectures

- i. The committee agreed to co-sponsor a lecture by a representative from the Green Building Council on March 21. Judy is making arrangements.
- ii. The committee agreed to sponsor a lecture on composting in spring or summer. Dian will make arrangements, preferably with Bruce Russell, a Town resident who is a certified master composter.

g. Discussion Group. The committee agreed to support Betsy Johnson's suggestion of starting a discussion group addressing philosophical and lifestyle issues related to climate change. The Northwest Earth Institute will provide a facilitator and short articles for participants in a discussion group on "Global Warming: Changing Course" which would meet weekly for a 6-week period. The reading materials cost \$18 per participant, but otherwise the program is free to participants. Betsy will make arrangements and ensure that notification is included in the committee's Forecast column.

4. Lynn Lichtenstein agreed to serve as committee secretary and take minutes at future meetings.

5. The committee agreed to meet on March 27 at 7:30 pm, following our usual fourth Tuesday of the month custom.

6. The committee wished Judy a safe and wonderful experience as she hikes the Appalachian Trail and looks forward to her return in the fall and then adjourned.