

Town of Chevy Chase Climate Protection Committee
Minutes
March 27, 2007

Present: Dian Seidel, Interim Chair; Betsy Johnson; Lynn Lichtenstein; Christine Real de Azua; Steve Sessions; and Rob Enelow, Town Council Liaison

The Climate Protection (Committee) received the following reports, discussed the following items, and took or will take the following actions:

1. Montgomery County Council Global Warming Public Forum, March 14, 2007—Betsy Johnson

Topics discussed at the Forum included the Intercounty Connector and different types of ethanol. Corn-based ethanol is not effective, according to data presented. The Committee should encourage comments to Congress opposing corn-based ethanol.

2. Town Greenhouse Gas Inventory (TGGI)—Stuart Sessions

The TGGI will use a questionnaire to gather data for estimating energy use in Town homes. The questionnaire is being drafted to coordinate with home energy estimation software. Timeline for the TGGI is: send questionnaire to the Town Council 7-8 days before its May meeting; send out questionnaire after Council approval; receive results by Memorial Day; analyze data in June. The County is providing land use data for the Town. County contact is Eric Coffman. The Town Council has provided funds for a high school student who has been hired at \$12/hr. to help with the data.

3. Home Visits (lightbulb giveaway) – Andy Knaus

Going well. Program has new volunteers. Talking points have been revised to be friendlier and shorter. Set to do 100 extra contacts.

4. Street Lights – Christine Real de Azua and others

Maryland legislature may pass law permitting local governments to purchase their street lights from Pepco. Some towns in Northeast have purchased street lights and may be a source of expertise.

- * Rob and Betsy will contact Jane Lawton on what Town should do if law passes.
- * Christine will draw up a proposal concerning ownership and maintenance of street lights listing options and the type of electric contract Town should negotiate.

5. May Column for Forecast—Betsy Johnson

The column will describe Maryland legislative initiatives passed in latest session (ends April 9, 2007). Must give article to Belinda by the 15th - 20th of the month. Article will include a box with an invitation to form a Climate Circle (see below).

* Betsy will report on Maryland initiatives at the next committee meeting.

6. Composting Seminar—Dian Seidel

There will be a composting seminar on Monday, April 23, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. at the Town offices. Bruce Russell, Town resident and master composter, will be the presenter. The seminar is co-sponsored by the Environmental Committee. This event is in the Forecast and the Committee should ask Dave Walton to put it on the Town website.

7. March 21 Seminar on Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design; Town Vision Statement; Coordination with other Committees—All

March 21 Seminar included two speakers, one from the U.S. Green Building Council, and was attended by 40 people. Information was presented on standards and certification for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) homes. These homes must be new construction or gut rehabs.

Committee members expressed interest in having the Town mandate LEED standards.

* Christine will go through LEED standards and select ones that Committee might recommend.

Town recently adopted Vision statement with environmental recommendations. Vision Statement charges Town Environmental Committee with recommending green standards to the Council. The Committee should coordinate and discuss green standards with the Environmental Committee and the Long Range Planning Committee.

*Rob will forward Vision statement to Committee members.

* Betsy will call the Chairs and Council Liaisons of these committees.

8. Climate Circle (Global Warming Discussion Group)—Betsy Johnson

Pilot for this program has finished its second of six weeks. Purpose of group is to raise consciousness on global warming and our contribution to the problem. Group is evaluating a workbook. Betsy will announce formation of a Climate Circle in the Town in her May article in

the Forecast. First meeting will include presentation of subject matter and determination of a schedule.

9. Next meeting of Committee—**Wednesday, April 25, 2007**