

Minutes of the Climate Protection Committee (CPC) 3/24/2009

Attendees:

Judy McGuire
Dian Seidel
Betsy Johnson
Suzanne Parmet
Susan Gordon
Stuart Sessions
Warren Rizzi (town staff)
Rob Enelow (Council Liaison)

Guests:

Ketch Ryan
Steve Lawton
Kirk Renaud

Note that underlined portions of the minutes indicate action items for members of the Committee.

Ketch and Kirk gave a presentation on Common Cents Solar

Common Cents Solar has done 200 assessments, installed 12 systems with 7 more to install. They've negotiated discounts with the installers and provided help to people to get other grants and incentives.

They presented to the Committee a proposal to put panels and a small wind turbine on the Lawton Center. They are hoping that the TOCC will advance the funds for creating an educational kiosk in the center which will show the output of the system and provide educational information about energy use plus information about Jane Lawton and her dream of a green energy economy.

- They anticipate selling low interest bonds to residents to raise \$200K to fund the solar array and wind power – tax breaks would be available to those who invest. The bonds will be paid back in 10 years.
- They are requesting the TOCC for \$100K to fund the energy education center. The Town will eventually recoup the money from electricity generated by the array (possibly through an agreement with the County, who owns the building, to exonerate rent and utilities in perpetuity).

They asked for the Climate Protection Committee to support the proposal that the Town contribute \$100K. The Committee supported the proposal.

Dian Seidel on Climate Corps

Daniel Button is now co-chair of the working group

Plan:

- Recruit resident high school and college age students for summer “internship”
- Hold info session for teens and parents (Sun. supper in May).
- Train the members of the corps (after school lets out for summer – maybe 6/20).
- Advertise the service to residents and schedule visits.
- Do home checkups over the summer.
- Follow up with homeowners.
- Coordinate with other aspects of our Climate Committee’s efforts.
- Corps members would be compensated \$20 per home visit - \$10 per corps member, team of two per home.
- Develop booklet for Corps members to carry into the home which would include a checklist as a reminder
- Advertise for both.
- Budget: \$4980

To do list:

- Develop application (with waiver)
- Develop training materials
- Develop permission slip
- Develop homeowner waivers
- Develop booklet and checklist

Susan Gordon on Communications

UMD students:

- Did a report on focus groups – identified major barriers (cost, hassle, lack of info, etc) identified major resident groups – want to do a survey to test their findings. Susan will send report to committee members.
- Developed a logo proposal which Susan presented to the committee – various opinions about the proposal. It was agreed to test the logo on more people. Susan will follow up with UMD.
- Other students at MD are helping to develop a website and communication strategy

Walkathon:

April 19th event will include:

Ben and Jerry's ice cream
Prizes
Booths (for earth day)

Stuart on Stimulus money

Stimulus at State level contains 20% set aside for green infrastructure like water efficiency, on site water capture. MD closed their application process on Feb 28 so it's too late for TOCC to apply for money – but may be another round so we should think of something that we can apply for.

List of MD projects is on at <http://statestat.maryland.gov/recovery.asp>

Suzanne on New Homes Working Group

The Green Homes (nee New Homes) working group requested permission from the Committee to include additions and substantial renovations in their purview. The Committee agreed to the Change.

The working group will be looking at many green standards program including but not limited to LEED.

Other things:

The Land Use Committee will be proposing a wildflower garden at Rosemary Circle in honor of Jane Lawton as asked for CPC support. Committee supports the idea.

The Town has requested that the Committee make information available on our activities at the Town's annual meeting on May 5 as well as at the Volunteer Appreciation Event June 6. Betsy volunteered and requested others to volunteer as well.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM

Submitted by Betsy Johnson