

Minutes of the Climate Protection Committee (CPC) 9/29/2009

Attendees:

Judy McGuire (Chair)
Suzanne Parmet
Dian Seidel
Betsy Johnson
Andy Knaus
Daniel Button
Warren Rizzi (Staff support)
David Lublin (Council Liaison)

1. Review Committee Mission Statement

Dian Seidel moved and Daniel Button seconded that we accept the mission statement as written. Unanimously accepted.

2. Update on Climate Corps

Warren Rizzi reviewed comments from the members of the Climate Corps. The students generally felt good about their experiences and they got positive feedback from the residents particularly about recommendations for how to save money. They thought the pay of \$10 per visit and \$20 per training session was fair.

There were only 14 households that signed up for the audits.

Daniel Button and Dian Seidel reviewed comments from the residents who had climate corps visits. Many of them had already taken steps to reduce their energy consumption but they were positive about the students and the program. One person was interested in the weather stripping workshop. Someone suggested having a handout about where to buy things like light bulbs and weather stripping. Some of them seemed eager to move to the next level and get an energy audit.

We discussed ideas for next summer: Perhaps one of the college students could take over the administration of the program. Judy asked Dian to come to our next meeting with a proposal for going forward. It was noted that Pepco is going to come out with a similar program with professionals available to come to people's homes. Once that program is established it would make the climate corps obsolete.

3. Update on energy incentive proposal

David Lublin reported that the Town Council approved a budget of \$200 for an energy audit and \$400 for follow up work for a max of 50 households (total \$30,000 for the program). There will be a public hearing at the October Council meeting (Oct. 14th).

The Council recently passed a program of incentives for residents to plant native trees on their private property – all the incentives have been taken for this year so the Council is considering making it an annual program.

4. Summary of the Council meeting on committee operations

Dian Seidel reported that the Town Council would like for committees to:

- a. Post agendas 5 days before meeting
- b. Conduct open meetings
- c. Have minutes follow a particular format
- d. Make sure that when we speak to reporters that they understand we are speaking for ourselves and not for the town
- e. Provide reports to the Council twice a year.
- f. and other suggestions

Dian has requested more clarity from the Town Council on what our budget will be.

5. Update on work of "green homes" working group

Suzanne Parmet reported on the work of the “green homes” working group. They researched programs that were available in the marketplace (LEED, Energy Star). The County Council is poised to require Energy Star for new construction but they haven’t decided what level they will require. The Green Homes working group would like to propose that the town offer incentives for residents to do more than what the county is requiring – this could take the form of a checklist of possible improvements. The conversation continues.

6. Preparations for demo energy audit at Judy McGuire’s house

There will be a demonstration energy audit at Judy McGuire’s house (4003 Rosemary Street) on November 1 at 2 PM. Live Green will perform the audit. We will also schedule another weather stripping workshop before Christmas (perhaps November 21). Andy Knaus offered her house for the workshop.

Next meeting will be on October 27th at 7:30 PM

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM

Submitted by Betsy Johnson