

## **Sustainability Advisory Committee**

**November 14, 2018**

**Present: Deb Harrison, Leigh Hafrey, John Gorham, Chuck Kabat, Emily Walton**

**Guests** Ronni Hodash, Evan McCalley (DCD 7<sup>th</sup> graders), Lisa Brayton (Fairbanks Garden Club), Dave Ward, Jenna Gibson (Chair of Green Team at Novartis) Brendan McDonough, David Lowe (presenting and representing solar co), Johanna McBrien, Director of Historical Society

### **Meeting Minutes**

Committee approved meeting minutes of 9.11 and 10.10

Deb moved to accept the minutes and Chuck second.

### **Discussion with Johanna McBrien from Dedham Historical Society regarding Dedham Water Works Project**

Johanna reviewed the premise of the event for the public and the speakers that we are reaching out to. The date has been changed to May 4<sup>th</sup> 9-12:00 at Dedham Historical Society Museum. The event would be free and open to the public.

We are continuing to seek funding for the traveling exhibit and for PR for banners, brochures. Also funding for coffee break. Maybe Whole Foods would donate or another local coffee shop

J. Gorham said Mother Brooks Arts would be a possible location. Endicott is busy with weddings this time of year.

### **David Lowe, Resonant Energy Discussion about Solar for non-profits and congregations**

David is from Brookline and is part of Climate Change Action Brookline. He now works for Resonant Energy and would like to help to spread information about opportunities for solar for non-profits and congregations.

He will discuss SMART program which is also transition from SREC 1 and SREC 2

SMART – Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target – rolls out Nov 26<sup>th</sup> and is an incentive program for solar and coincides with federal tax program that is 30% tax credit for solar if you pay taxes. SMART is easier to work with between institutions. SREC 1 was a larger compensation – and favored large arrays. SREC 2 wasn't as generous. Now SMART program has more flexibility around shared programs and nonprofits, congregations and munis. It has adders and sub tractors (more for agricultural land), doesn't favor large arrays as much. Under 25KW (5 houses of energy) it is not affected by smart.

In general, 80% of homes are not appropriate for solar, said David, but they can buy solar from others as part of community shared solar.

SMART is a declining block grant so there is an incentive to act now. After the first 80 MW then the incentive goes down 4%. The assumption is the cost of panels will go down over time.

Resonant is not an installer, but a platform for linking up different organizations. They will do the competitive bidding process and find the best installers. Partnerships are with financing agencies.

In other communities - Melrose program – big roof solar – has a goal of net zero by 2050. It launches Dec 6<sup>th</sup>. Brookline did it as a warrant article to make all new buildings solar ready.

Johanna asked being a non-profit how affordable would it be? David said you would do it through a PPA, which would make it affordable. The PPA would link you with banks who are the equity partners. You get the power at a reduced cost and reduced carbon emissions. The installer would do the maintenance and most systems have a 25 years+ lifespan.

### **Plastic Bag/Styrofoam Ban Discussion**

Evan, a student at Dedham Country Day presented on plastic bags saying that 5 million were produced every year, which could circle the equator 7 times. They are made with chemicals such as petroleum and other harmful chemicals and degrade after 700 years, but not fully even at that point. 90% of sea birds are killed because of degraded plastic. 8,8 million tons of plastic is dumped into the ocean every year. A person uses a plastic bag for an average of 12 minutes, but it lasts 1000 years.

E. Walton suggested starting a sub-committee of our Committee to discuss this issue. The public is invited to join.

Lisa Brayton of the Fairbanks Garden Club asked what is the process for this bylaw to be enacted? V. LeClair replied it would need to go to the BOS and Town Meeting.

V. LeClair reviewed with the Committee Milton's bylaw.

### **Fall Recycling Day Recap and Spring Planning**

C. Kabat reviewed all of the tons and lbs of what we collected (see summary article)

J. Gorham mentioned that as a fundraiser for the Neponset Rotary Club that the club just broke even.

There was a suggestion for next time that we not compete with DPW for HHW day. J. Gorham mentioned that if the vendors could drop off containers ahead of time they could save the \$450.

As for volunteers - 2 out of 6 student volunteers showed up.

Potential next dates Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. V. LeClair will confirm with vendors.

### **Master Plan and Sustainability Discussion**

The Committee discussed having a merged discussion focused on integrating sustainability throughout the Master Plan and Dedham's fabric.

V. LeClair mentioned that as part of the MVP workshops we will be discussing doing just that. She asked for permission for the listening session to be held during our regular meeting. Matt approved and Chuck second the MVP Listening session to be held as part of the regular meeting on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **Old/New Business**

Resubmit letter about voice in Town Planner process.

Chuck would like to make a motion to increase the number of members by 2 additional members. Leigh second.

### **Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn. Deb Harrison made a motion to adjourn. Chuck second. All in favor.