

## Dedham Sustainability Advisory Committee

January 28, 2013

**Present:** Chuck Kabat (CK), Carol Hills (CH), Jonathan Briggs (JB), Deb Harrison (DH), Mark MacLean (MM), Virginia LeClair (VL)

**Guests:** Juan Sanchez and Katrina Kazda, Sustainable Business Network of Massachusetts

Jonathan Briggs (JB) opened the meeting for Monday, January 28, 2013

- **Discussion with Sustainable Business Network of Massachusetts regarding Green Business Leader Program**

Juan Sanchez and Katrina Kazda from the Sustainable Business Network of Massachusetts (SBN) presented their Sustainable Business Leader Program. SBN has 1,000 plus members. They launched their program in 2008 with the help of DEP and the BRA. Since that time they have had 125 graduates across 25 communities and have eliminated as a result 2 million pounds of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. They also have a Sustainable Community Leader Program, which is directed towards community groups, non-profits, and churches. The Sustainable Business Leader Program is a six step process. They start each business off with an in depth questionnaire that provides insight in to the business and their needs. Next they conduct a physical audit, which all businesses must have if they have not had an energy audit in the past 1.5 years. Once that is complete they develop an action plan and proceed to implementing the measures. The program culminates with a final evaluation and certification. The goal set forth is to achieve 80% of the recommended measures. The measures focus on energy efficiency, water conservation, waste management, pollution prevention, local food, and sustainable management. They offer ongoing assistance once the program is complete as well as PR and marketing through Facebook and their newsletter, as well as a one year SBN membership, window decals, and a free listing in SBN's Green Guide. The pricing for this program is based on square footage, ranging from \$600 to \$4,000 with a 20% non profit discount. The length of the program can range from 6 months to 2 years depending on the business.

The Committee responded favorably to the presentation and asked about next steps. VL responded that she had already met with our Economic Director, but would contact Dedham Square Circle and Oakdale Square Alliance, who she has partnered with on this initiative and if they are in favor of going in this direction with the program we will aim to get it up and running in time for Earth Day, April 22.

- **Bike and Pedestrian Plan Review**

VL updated the Committee on the Planning Board meeting of 12.6.2012 where together with MAPC she presented the Draft Bike and Pedestrian Plan. The Planning Board had several comments that they were going to address, mostly concerning safety and education that is needed for both cyclists and drivers with the expansion of bike lanes in Town.

VL recapped the site walk of the abandoned rail line that was conducted in early December with MAPC and the Rails to Trails Conservancy. The Rails to Trails Conservancy was optimistic about the creation of a rail trail given the few impediments and relative good shape of trail base. VL explained that this was an initial look at creating a rail trail, but there would need to be much more work done, such as a friends of, or civic group formed to help lead this initiative, the creation of a conceptual plan and by in from the public.

- **Earth Day 2013**

Earth Day 2013 is Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Committee discussed whether or not they would want to host an event or hold off for the Green Fair. They decided that it might be best if the Green Fair piggybacked on another event and it was decided to have a small vendor fair associated with the showing of the film Switch on Earth Day at the Middle School Auditorium. Current partners and

initiatives would be highlighted at this vendor fair. The vendor fair would be from 6-7:00pm and the film from 7-9:00pm.

- **Community/Member Update**

JB suggested an agenda item for the next meeting to include a discussion of the Green Fair, as well as reappointment of officers now that we have new members.

- NSL Update – VL passed out an update from NSL regarding the solar program and energy audits. She also discussed upcoming dates for future presentations and extending the solar program for one more month in hopes of meeting our goal of 50 homes going solar.
- Styrofoam Recycling Event Re-cap – MM and CK reported on the Styrofoam Recycling event that was held at the Old Avery School the Saturday following Christmas. CK thought that the event was well attended, but did not believe that it needed to coincide with the Christmas holiday as the vast majority of Styrofoam collected did not have to do with Christmas. He said the majority of the Styrofoam collected was coolers that hold medical supplies for home delivery. He suggested advertising this event to the youth sports teams.

This collection day was organized through Refoamit, which brought a 24 foot trailer to the school and helped with the sorting and loading of materials. They would consider the event a success since we collected several hundred pounds of foam and filled the trailer  $\frac{3}{4}$  the way full. The Town has already reserved the same date for December 2013.

- DH informed the committee that she publicized the NSL church clergy event at St. Paul's, St. Suzanna's and to all the employees at Nobles. CK described the meeting with NSL and Park and Recreation at the snack shack at Memorial field as a good step forward in investigating solar. The snack shack could accommodate 16 panels and receives direct sun. CK will continue to investigate this with Park and Recreation and NSL.

**Set Next Meeting Dates**

The next meeting date was set March 4<sup>th</sup>, followed by the first Monday of the month:

April 1<sup>st</sup>

May 6<sup>th</sup>

June 3<sup>rd</sup>

- **Adjourn**

CH made a motion to adjourn. DH second. All in favor.