

NOTES FROM APRIL 15TH 1ST ANNUAL SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE IN MARLBOROUGH,MA

Thought I'd jot down the various things I noted under certain main headings. I know that Dedham is already doing a number of them but thought there may be a few new things we might think of.

COMMUNITY BEST PRACTICES

– CAMBRIDGE: has some system where households can tell how they're doing in terms of energy use versus their (anonymous) neighbors)

– CHELMSFORD:Contact: Pat Wojtas
Started Greener Chelmsford Initiative. Among the many things they've done:

a) Started Green Business Recognition award (Green Seal of Approval) that town awards to business who take steps to reduce their carbon footprint. These are both things the town lists (i.e. hotels that turn off a/c when guest rooms are vacant) as well as things businesses or organizations take upon themselves to do (one liquor store used piles of snow to chill beer in the winter) They encourage innovative ideas and publicize businesses and organizations that get Green Seal of approval in local paper which also helps publicize the business.

– b) Chelmsford has solar panels on 10 municipal buildings.. Started with Chelmsford Public Library roof and moved from there. Solar panels on two school buildings saves 10k annually

– c) enhanced access to conservation areas (Carol H. to get more details on this)

– d) helped a farm or local family started a Community Supported Agriculture

– e) started community gardens

– f) created a 7-mile rail to trail through town.

– g) use solar powered park and pay machine in parking lots

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– CONCORD: Contact: Peter Nobile, Chair of Concord's Comprehensive Sustainable Energy Committee. Among the many things Concord has done:

– a) use control thermostats in all municipal buildings

– b) use green products in cleaning of all municipal buildings

– c) have comprehensive Energy Master plan

– d) they use MassEnergyInsight software

– e) have 2 annual drop-off-swap events so citizens can get rid of or swap their crap

– f) stopped watering town hall grounds

– g) have police on bike patrol

– f) use Smart Grid tech... so utility can control A/C, pool pumps in summer

– g) changed font color and size in municipal paperwork – reduces amount of ink used in printers by 20 percent

GENERAL COMMENTS ON REDUCING CARBON FOOTPRINT

- Lighting audits of all schools and municipal buildings – good way to start – One company there that does that is Energy Efficiency Solutions, Chip Goudreau, 774 285 1294, chipg@guardian-energy.com does initial audit for free.. - this kind of retrofitting could be funded by \$ from Green Communities.
- After lighting audits, then move to HVAC motors, then vending machines (vending misers attached to them)

FUNDING

- MASS SAVE – \$\$ help to get more efficient lighting (see lighting audit above), cooling, ventilating and heating, the biggest costs for schools..
- Look into Clean Energy Choice – for money to fund solar panels in schools, other municipal buildings
- Look into Clean Renewable Energy Board for funding
- MAPC has \$4 million to advance Metro Future Goals – projects that work collaboratively with town..
- Green Communities – got it! (meg.l)usardi@state.ma.us
- Rick Reibstein, Environmental Analyst Policy and outreach mgr, Mass Office of Technical Assistance – (we should talk to him – had to run out of session – me might know of other sources of funding)

LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION

- *MASS RIDES*: Jennifer Solomon – works with employers to create car pool, van pools, emergency rides home for those who use mass transit but need to get home quickly, – could get some large Dedham employers to work with Mass Rides to maximize multiple mass transit options in Dedham. Could also ask them how about how to organize car pools for residents of Dedham who commute to same part of Boston area. people going out of Dedham to same

Mass Rides does Safe Routes to School, which is already involved in Dedham's schools thought I think participation rate is quite low.. Safe Routes to Schools involved in 121 Mass communities... but they would be good ally in improving sidewalks and street safety in Dedham.

- *BAY STATE BIKE WEEK CELEBRATION*: Would be great if Dedham could get involved in this next year.. Sponsored by MassDOT, MassBike and Mass Rides.. It's May 14-20 this year. Perhaps by next year we could inaugurate our historical tour of Dedham by bike.

- *CREATING GREENWAYS/BIKE PATHS*:

Speaker: Jerry Van Hook (JerryVanHook@gmail.com), 1st chair, Minuteman Bikeway, now heads Sidewalk committee in Lexington. Retired guy. Very helpful Basic advice on getting trails/greenways started

- Volunteer committees good approach – (like ours)
 - involve abutters from the start
 - Listen to all, don't vilify
 - Understand that many citizens will be reluctant to change..
 - in Lexington, businessmen wanted billboards on the bikeway (they didn't get them)
 - Cooperate with police
 - Create core group of people to push for greenway/trail, people who know how to listen patiently to opponents and who won't be too zealous
 - Set up outreach committee as well as practical nuts and bolts committee
 - emphasize safety issues – getting kids to school, people to work etc..
 - find support among a few selectmen
 - get to know the DPW, Parks and Rec
 - make sure there's access on and off trail at various points along it.
- make sure trail connects to other existing trails

- IMPROVING SIDEWALKS

- Finding funding for plowing of core sidewalks in Dedham, perhaps in Dedham Square as a start... The usual suspect towns do this like Lexington, Brookline, etc. but walking in Dedham during the winter is a huge issue. People mostly take to the streets which is very dangerous. My own thought is perhaps we get creative using social media and get some teens to shovel certain key streets.. Need to be thought out.. Get Safe Routes to School involved..
- Form sidewalk committee (Lexington has one) or subcommittee of sustainability committee to take on issue of sidewalks in all their aspects:
 - a) fixing hazardous ones like where they're at the same grade as road/street with no striping
 - b) creating guidelines so there is always some sort of curb between sidewalk and street
 - MY IDEA: work on extending sidewalks to connect existing ones to other ones (i.e. Rustcraft Road to Legacy Blvd)
 - MY IDEA: create Facebook page where people can talk about issue... (moderated of course)
 - e) Work with DPW on revising street guidelines like narrowing width of road from maximum width of 12'.
 - f) improve sidewalks near schools to connect with other ones – get Safe Routes to School and PTO involved..

