

## **Dedham Sustainability Advisory Committee**

**July 23, 2012**

**Present:** Joanna Hamblin (JH), Virginia LeClair (VL), Carol Hills (CH), Jonathan Briggs (JB), Deb Harrison (DH), Russ Poole

**Guests:** Sarah Kurpiel, MAPC; Bob Aldous, Planning Board Chair; Emily Burke, Environmental Department Intern

Jonathan Briggs (JB) opened the meeting for Monday, July 23, 2012.

### **Residential Energy Efficiency Program Update**

Virginia LeClair (VL) updated the Committee on the number of free home energy assessments that Next Step Living has conducted in Town.

### **Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update**

Sarah Kurpiel from MAPC presented the Draft Bike and Pedestrian Improvement Plan that MAPC prepared for the Town as part of the technical assistance from the Sustainable Communities grant. The plan shows connections to neighboring communities of Westwood, Needham and Boston, as well as a Dedham Greenway that runs the length of the rail trail. The plan calls for bike lanes, where feasible, and sharrows. Bob Aldous, Chair of the Planning Board attended the meeting and stressed that the Committee needs to promote along with the bike lanes education for both drivers and cyclists surrounding them. The Committee agreed that many people do not understand what a sharrow is and the rules of the road as they relate to cyclists. The Committee then discussed priorities and agreed that sidewalks along Rustcraft Road are a priority.

### **Discussion on Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements in Commercial Areas**

Carol Hills (CH) discussed the need for improved access to and within commercial areas for pedestrians in particular. She described the need for sidewalks on Legacy Boulevard and asked Mr. Aldous if plans for Legacy Place II were before them. He was not aware of any plans for Legacy Place II. CH talked about the difficulty for pedestrians to walk around the Dedham Plaza from building to building for lunch or from the bus stop to the stores since there are no sidewalks.

### **Green Fair Planning**

VL mentioned to the Committee that the fate of the Green Fair for 2012 was in flux, since the larger event, Dedham Day may not occur this year. She will keep the Committee posted as she learns more.

### **Discussion on the Health and Environmental Impacts of Leaf Blowers**

Joanna Hamblin (JH) discussed the ban on leaf blowers in Arlington. She is interested in creating a similar bylaw in Dedham. JB suggested that she obtain from other communities their ordinances and that we look into this further and that perhaps instead of banning them, have restricted hours and months of use. He also suggested involving the Board of Health.

### **Community/Member Update**

Emily Burke, intern for the Environmental Department gave a presentation on Mass Energy Insight and the energy usage of the Town's buildings.

Russ Poole announced that the final documents for the LEED certification of the Avery School have been submitted and the Avery is the first LEED Gold elementary school in the state.

### **Adjourn**

JB made a motion to adjourn. JH second. All in favor.