

Dedham Sustainability Advisory Committee

November 26, 2012

Present: Chuck Kabat (CK), Richard McGuinness (RM), Carol Hills (CH), Joanna Hamblin (JH), Jonathan Briggs (JB), Deb Harrison (DH), Mark MacLean (MM), Virginia LeClair (VL)

Guests: Michael Cucchiara, Next Step Living; Brian Keaney, and Beppy Martin

Jonathan Briggs (JB) opened the meeting for Monday, November 26, 2012.

- **Introduction of new members and updates of current initiatives**

JB introduced the new members of the Committee Chuck Kabat and Richard McGuinness and asked them to share their backgrounds with the Committee.

- **Discussion with Next Step Living**

JB introduced Michael Cucchiara with Next Step Living, who is Dedham's Community Liaison. M. Cucchiara presented the Dedham Solar Challenge to the Committee and discussed how he believes this will help the Town inch towards its goal of increasing home energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions. They studied the homes in Dedham through aerial photos and found that 900 homes would be suitable for solar. The goal of this program is to have 50 solar assessments completed as a result of this outreach campaign. The outreach effort will include target door knocking, direct mail, and events.

The Committee responded favorably to this idea and when asked for suggestions on how to increase participation at events CK suggested holding an event at the Endicott Library during the day. DH suggested having a meeting in January and inviting all the churches. CK also suggested videotaping one of the audits to show the process.

- **Carbon Tax Discussion with Brian Keaney**

Brian Keaney presented an idea from an article he had read about how British Columbia was decreasing carbon emissions with a tax. They taxed the carbon instead of the value of the car, taxing what they don't want. This is an incentive program to have lower emission vehicles.

The Committee thought this was an interesting idea, but wanted to learn more about it. Brian Keaney suggested as a next step that he would draft a bill that the Committee would support that would be sent to Paul McMurry, however without more information they were hesitant to take on such a responsibility.

- **Green Business Leader Program Update**

VL presented to the Committee that she had met with the Sustainable Business Network of MA to discuss partnering on the Green Business Leader Program. The program would be a pilot in Dedham Square and Oakdale Square focusing on small businesses to start. V. LeClair had applied for mitigation money to start the program and had a local designer create a logo. The program would review 6 steps to Sustainability that businesses would go through in order to achieve the title of Green Business.

The Committee was interested, but had questions and asked that the Sustainable Business Network of MA to come in to our next meeting to present.

- **Bike and Pedestrian Plan Review**

VL announced that she would be going before the Planning Board on 12.6.2012 to present the Draft Bike and Pedestrian Plan along with a representative from MAPC who has been assisting the Town with the plan. VL and MAPC had presented the plan to the BOS earlier in the month and the Town Administrator had suggested that we go before the Planning Board.

- **Community/Member Update**

JH announced that after 5 years on the Committee that she would be resigning due to obligations with work and school.

JB discussed the 5% day with Whole Foods and VL suggested that we use the 5% contributions to support the gardening program. DH moved to have the proceeds from the 5% day go to supporting the gardening program. CH second. All in favor.

- **Set Next Meeting Dates**

The next meeting date was set for 12/17/2012

- **Adjourn**

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