

CCAB

May 9, 2011 Meeting

Brookline Town Hall, 333 Washington Street

MINUTES

Paul Harris called the meeting to order.

1. Climate Action Plan - Don Weitzman presented the internal, working schedule that the Selectmen's Climate Action Committee (CAC) has developed for moving forward to develop a town-wide Climate Action Plan (CAP). The last such plan was prepared in 2002 as part of the International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) program. Don also showed the 2002 CAP Progress Report, which indicates that the town has made progress in many areas. The CAC has formed a drafting subcommittee, chaired by Werner Lohe, who reported that it has met and begun a rough outline for the CAP. Jesse Mermel is taking the lead on scheduling the first of two community workshops for the end of May. The first workshop and CAP may include a long-range vision that Paul Harris has brought to the CAC's attention, based on scenarios for the year 2050 developed by the Tellus Institute and including a "deep-change" alternative. David Damm-Luhr reminded the group that the CAP can and should be used to continue the collaboration with or to re-engage with the 100 organizational partners who participated in Brookline 2010. Fred Pinchas asked about implementation of the plan, and Werner described his proposal for a 3-person group (CAC, CCAB, and Planning Dept.) to function as a steering committee for the finished CAP. Mary Dewart suggested that a meeting with Town Administrator Mel Klechner might be useful since he has been very supportive. Fred reminded us that Town Treasurer Steve Cirillo has also been a great supporter.

2. Green Homes Brookline - Gabe Shapiro of Next Step Living, presented a statistical summary of the results obtained through April 30, 2011 in the town- and CCAB-sponsored Green Homes Brookline home audit and energy efficiency program. There was a very significant increase in interest by residents in April, which Gabe believes is attributable largely to CCAB's very successful canvasses. After the presentation, there was discussion and tentative consensus that a way of preserving momentum might be to conduct a further canvass in June.

3. Non-Profit Status for CCAB - Susan Martin discussed progress she and Alan Leviton have made toward presenting a formal proposal to the membership for CCAB to change its organizational structure to permit it to obtain IRS § 501(c)(3) non-profit status. This has been discussed in less detail in two previous monthly CCAB meetings, and results in part from reluctance of the Brookline Green Space Alliance to continue to act as CCAB's fiscal agent. Both the Massachusetts Climate Action Network and the Brookline Community Fund have been contacted about possibly becoming our fiscal agent, but neither is enthusiastic about the idea. In addition, Susan and Alan see advantages to managing our financial affairs ourselves. Susan has worked with a lawyer experienced in incorporation who is providing free advice. The goal is to comply with state incorporation laws and IRS requirements with a minimum of changes in CCAB operations. The change would require CCAB to move to a Board structure instead of a membership structure. Though we now have a mailing list of over 700, we have only 35 dues paying members and ten to fifteen truly active members. The proposal would be to ask these active members to form a board and elect officers. Susan will email draft bylaws for the new structure to anyone who is interested, and will post a notice as well as more details about the rationale for the change than appear in these minutes on the CCAB website. She will also contact David Lowe so that he can send out a brief notice to our mailing list. A formal, written proposal will be presented at the next CCAB monthly meeting.

4. 2011 Bicycle Parade - Cynthia Snow announced and described Brookline's fourth annual Bike Parade, to begin at 12:30 this Sunday, May 15 at Amory Park (registration beginning at 11:30). For more details see www.BrooklineBikes.org or call 671-7302088.

5. Announcements - Paul announced the following:

Saturday, June 18 - The Brookline Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) has organized a pilot food-waste drop-off at Town Hall from 9:00 am until noon. We are encouraged to participate to demonstrate interest in the idea of municipal food-waste composting.

Sunday June 19 - Brookline Flag Day Parade. Mary noted that CCAB had a contingent marching in the parade last year, and it would be good to organize a group again this year.

Fall Town Meeting - SWAC intends to introduce a "Zero Waste" resolution.

6. NSTAR Green - Mary Dewart raised the issue of possible "de-coupling" of the NSTAR Green electricity rate from general rates in order to bring the price down. After considerable discussion, a subcommittee was formed to look into this further. The subcommittee will be Mary, Clint Richmond, Paul Harris, and Ed Loechler.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, June 23, as usual, in Room 103, Town Hall, 333 Washington Street, Brookline, beginning at 7:00 p.m.