

Climate Action Brookline 9.14.15 Meeting Minutes

Announcements:

- Boston EV day- Saturday September 19, 2015- Larz Anderson- 8:30- 10:30
- Climate Week- campaign for 2016 September 24, 2015 kickoff meeting 7:45 am
- Alternate vehicle day tryout- pending liability approval; Brookline bicycle day May 22-pending approval of selectmen -Electrical wheel, Copenhagen wheel, Dutch bicycle
- September 29, 2015- hearing at the state house regarding Mass Power Forward -infrastructure (i.e. gas lines), bills on table
- Mass350.org march – is there one?

Tom Vittolo:

Explained Warrant Articles 13-14 to be discussed at November Town Meeting

Article 13- selectmen can choose Brookline's default energy supplier (Eversource has wires, but supplier can change)

- can opt out, but default changed (can get sliver of savings)
- can get cleaner energy- 50% renewable (now energy 25% renewable, Mass Energy better)
- reduce carbon emissions by 8%, greatest magnitude of change that town government can do
- need to pay an average of \$7 more for average homeowner (based on use)
- broker procurement -> need to get approved by utility and attorney general office (>12 month process)
- 7 selectmen are in favor, 240 selectmen in all to sway
- talk to town leaders to become effective

Article 14- purpose is to support Article 13, but to give the board of selectmen a push from community to get greener energy for the default supplier

David Leschoier:

Community-shared Solar- child of CAB (last 6 months)

- solarize campaign last summer- discount to install solar panels
- now want to broaden vision:
 - program for everyone who wants to increase use of electricity from solar
 - more beneficial than programs financially (power purchase only 5% change)
 - local benefits (renter, condo owner, business, anyone can participate)
 - Different components: Energy, hardware, software, money, people
- reliable, town-backed
- different ways to go: own payment to buy solar panels (tax payments) or lease certain amount of solar panels (subscription) or simple purchase agreement

Approached Housing Authority:

- Town Properties (Devotion School, evaluating other buildings)
- Next 6 weeks will get report (transfer station- 1.4 megawatts)

- Now only 2 solar arrays now
- Benefit to town and taxpayers
- Thinking of arrays, e.g. parking lots
- Contacted Co-Op Power, Greenfield- fund from socially responsible investors
- Social Media to attract customers-> not good match
- Airbnb model –match roofs with sun partners

Solar panels and benefits are local- next couple months the group will come to conclusions and recommendations

- research to come up with solution that is compatible with Brookline, not many different options

Mary Dewart and Kathleen Scanlon:

Mass Energy- extended partnership with Mothers Out Front

- extend into November
- 170 signups-> an average of 2 signups per weeks
- Next steps
 - door hangers, signs (spreads awareness, more people sign up)
 - gain confidence in program (neighbors)
 - best endorsement
 - month to month subscription
 - PTO meetings, coffees
 - backpack flyer at public schools

Divest movement across colleges (MIT, Harvard, Brandeis)

- MIT climate countdown meet October 2, 12-2 -> “stand for science, not for the Koch brothers”

Transportation as energy issue- disregarded

- only sector that has increased emissions
- In California, legislation passed to reduce 50% of oil in vehicles by 2030
- reduce oil consumption by 30% in Brookline?
 - put on agenda
- need more charging stations and electrical vehicles
 - two currently in Brookline – Town Hall parking lot; Babcock St parking lot
 - <http://www.plugshare.com/>