

Community Shared Solar Brookline Working Group

Minutes

2/10/2016, 6:00 pm, Denny Room, Public Health Building

Blake Cady, Ernest Frey, John Harris, David Klafter, Werner Lohe, Dave Pantalone

Next Meeting: March 9 (2nd Wednesday), 6:00 - 7:30 pm,
Denny Room, Public Health Building, 11 Pierce Street

Tasks:

- Consumer Questions or FAQ for Climate Week (final draft; see below) - Willy
- Progress Report for Climate Week (final draft; see below) - Werner
- Catalogue of CSS Options for Climate Week (final draft; see below) - Werner
- Contact Carol Oldham, who is organizing March 30 Climate Week event - Werner
- Invite retail CSS vendors to March 30 event - Werner

Updates

Werner noted that he recently attended the first meeting of the Design Advisory Team that is reviewing the design for the new Audi building on Route 9. He publicly raised the idea of a CSS development on the building's roof, which will be about 70,000 square feet in area. The meeting was very well attended by neighbors and others who believe that the design (particularly the four-story garage on the corner of Cypress Street) is unsatisfactory. Though many in the audience seemed open to the idea of a solar roof (or a combined solar and green roof), it is unclear how much attention the idea will get since there are many other design issues that generally seemed to be of higher priority to those present. The chair of the DAT indicated that there will be many meetings of the DAT, and that the approval process will be a long one.

CSS at Brookline Climate Week

As a reminder, the printed agenda summarized the minutes of the January CSS working group meeting at which decisions were made about the CSS Climate Week presentation:

... CSS will be part of an event on the evening of Wednesday, March 30. ...

There will be three major topics, with sub-topics. ... :

Gas Leaks in Brookline (Mothers Out Front)

School Building Efficiency

Where Do We Get Our Electricity?

Municipal Aggregation ...

MassEnergy's New England Wind program

CSS

... [T]he group agreed to pursue the following activities for the March 30 Climate Week CSS presentation:

1. Progress Report - Our presentation during the first part of the Climate Week event will be largely a progress report on our work to date. We will prepare a short, written report. We may or may not decide to distribute this publicly at the event or later...
2. Questions or FAQ - We will distribute a list of questions or an FAQ at the Climate week event, or both. At a minimum, we will distribute a list of questions that potential purchasers of "retail" CSS should ask vendors to help them decide which option to choose.
3. Catalogue of CSS Options - We will distribute a catalogue or list of CSS options.... [W]e will not make recommendations with regard to individual vendors.
4. We will invite CSS vendors to participate at the March 30 Climate Week event.
5. We will encourage each CSS vendors to ask a resident of Brookline who has purchased or participated in its option (that is, a consumer) to attend the event in order to be available to answer questions from members of the public one on one.

After discussion, it was decided that:

1. Everyone will give comments by email to Werner on his draft of the Report. No decision was made as to whether the report should actually be distributed, or simply used as a basis for the oral presentation.
2. After considerable discussion, it was decided that the first six, unnumbered FAQs in the document

provided by Willy Osborn should be distributed on March 30. We will not go into more detail. That is, we will not complete all of the other possible FAQs, nor will we provide a list of questions that consumers of retail CSS products should ask before they decide on a provider. We may still consider putting just the completed FAQs or additional questions on the CAB website.

3. The Catalogue of CSS Options will be distributed on March 30, basically in the form it now appears, with any additions or corrections that come to light in the next month.

4. We will invite CSS retail vendors to the event on March 30, and we will encourage them to ask a resident of Brookline who has purchased their product to attend with them.

The necessary documents will all be finalized at the March CSS working group meeting. Werner will coordinate with Carol Oldham, who is organizing the March 30 event, and then begin contacting vendors.

Our next meeting will be on 2nd Wednesday of March, March 9th, from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Denny Room, Public Health Building, 11 Pierce Street.