

Westwood Environmental Action Committee meeting minutes 8/10/16

Present: Claire Galkowski*, Maria Cosantini*, Stephen Shinopoulos*, Chris Gudjenov of 1st Light Energy, and Ellen Rollings, a resident of Westwood

* appointed

July's meeting minutes were unanimously approved

School lighting status: New LED lighting should be finished before the school year starts, according to newspaper report

Solar Energy Fair: Scheduled for 11/5/16 from 1-4 PM. Both rooms in the library have been booked from 11:30-5.

-Discussed which solar companies to invite and agreed to limit it to 6. Better Business Bureau and Energy Sage were mentioned as websites to verify the reliability of solar companies.

-WEAC will prepare a checklist for people at the energy fair to familiarize them with the most important aspects of installing solar panels on their home and what they should talk to vendors about.

-Ideas for the checklist included size of the system, manufacturing environmental footprint, recyclability, site suitability, aesthetics, installation process, what electricians they use, how long it takes to get a permit for installation, any changes to insurance, their electricity bill, refinancing, and the 3 methods for getting solar panels, buying, leasing, and PPA.

-Concerning the solar companies present for the energy fair, a focus will be placed on companies who have already worked in Westwood so that they're familiar with the permitting process.

-tables for MassSave, residents with own/lease/ppa experience

-Follow up note to people who participated in January's solar forum to check how the process went and invite them to the energy fair if they're still looking for solar panels.

-Speakers will address solar and other energy saving options. Speakers include Jan Galkowski (energy trends), Peter Kane (technology, panel types), Chris from 1st Light (PPA/lease/own options, federal and state incentives), Mass Save rep. (energy efficiency, ductless minisplit heating and cooling), possibly Tom Philbin and Francis Campion. Speakers will have ~25 minutes each.

-Stephen will call Mass Save, Maria will call Solar City, Claire will call RevoluSun, Ellen will call local mini-split split company.

Recycling day planning: Waiting for further information from DPW

Westwood day planning: September 24th. Provide information on solar fair and the checklist WEAC will provide, information on recycling day, provide an email sign-up.

Plastic Bag Ban: Tabled

New business: Ken Aries interested in working with Bay State Textiles which pays \$100 per ton of any textiles.

Discussed the possibility of arranging speakers to educate Westwood students about recycling, sustainability, and renewable energy.