

MEETING MINUTES
COLUMBIA ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, February 23, 2016
Adella G. Urban Administrative Office Conference Room

Members Present: Bryan Tarbell, Andrea Drabicki, Carole Williamson, Carol Coley

Also Present: Natasha Nau, Town Administrator

Members Absent: None

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes from the meeting held on January 20, 2016 were motioned and approved.
3. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** None
4. **OLD BUSINESS:**

4.1 First Bright Ideas Grant Event planning and scheduling (light bulb exchange/home energy audit raffle)

Natasha Nau has been working with Alison Jackman, from Eversource, to assist the Town in utilizing the Bright Ideas Grant money for a light-bulb exchange event program. Ms. Nau reported back to the EAC the following discussion topics held with Ms. Jackman over the last month regarding our event ideas generated from the Jan. 20, 2016 EAC meeting:

Earth Day Energy Event Saturday April 16th Saturday 11-4pm
Yeomans Hall is available and the EAC agrees the event will be held there

Ms. Jackman has confirmed the following:

- Likes our demonstration idea of a "light bulb power consumption" comparison fixture.
- Grant money can NOT be used for Home Energy Solution (HES) audits. The EAC was wondering if part of the Bright Ideas Grant money could be used to raffle off free HES audits to town citizens. Ms. Jackman confirmed that the Town would have pay for audits for citizens and provided this direction has come directly from the Energy Efficiency Board
- Eversource has an EnergizeCT booth and materials and will come and set up a table for or event.
- Eversource collects all discarded lightbulbs turned in at the event and discards them
- Eversource will show up with a lighting vendor - TechniArt
- They can help with marketing the event and the cost of the mailers are paid for by the Clean Energy Community program
- Mailers have to go out a minimum of 6 weeks in advance: March 5th, 2016
- Columbia goes into a contractual agreement with Eversource regarding the participation in the event and coordinates with the town as to availability when Eversource can send representatives for the event
- Up to 5 free LED lightbulbs may be given per household while supplies last

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Ms. Nau reviewed the point earning process and how many points Columbia has earned. For every 100 points the town receives \$5000. The Town has earned about 200 points thus far so another event or energy efficiency project could be paid for in the near future if the Town wished after the light bulb exchange event.

Currently Energy Efficiency Fund Participation by the citizens of Columbia has earned the following point distribution for the first 100 points:

- 60 residential energy efficiency points earned by Columbia residents participating in energy efficiency programs such as; HES program, energy efficient appliance purchases, insulation/solar/geo-thermal/heat pump installations
- 32 business points earned
- 8 rebate points earned - with the use of a residential rebate for energy efficiency products

***** ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: *****

- Andrea/Brian = Brainstorm kid friendly activities for the event
- Carole W. to follow up and see if Harness the Sun is available to attend the event
- Andrea to follow up with additional educational/energy vendors interested in attending
- Natasha to follow up with the following:
 - Left over bulbs: does Columbia keep them?
 - Consider providing snacks and beverages and if eligible for reimbursement
 - Natasha Nau/Kim Bona follow up with a quote from a local printing vendor

4.2 Purchasing composters and green cleaning products via awarded \$5,000 DEEP grant

- State is changing waste management plan. It is an extensive document. Ms. Nau to review. The rumor as it stands right now is that the State might make Pay as you Throw programs required.
- Composters
 - Intent is that composters will be purchased by the Spring of 2016
 - Natasha and George are working together to research composters
 - Permits may be required to install or operate the composters
- Green cleaning products not an immediate priority

***** ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: *****

- Green cleaning products. Ms. Nau wants to find a company that is a one stop shop that provides green cleaning products, recycled paper products, etc. N. Nau has asked committee to help in this research.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Chair Nomination

- Carole Williamson nominates Brian Tarbell as the Chair of the EAC

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- Second motion by Carole Williamson
- EAC members vote unanimously in favor

5.2 Member Resignation

- Lisa Napolitano officially resigns as member of EAC. The EAC would like to thank Lisa for her contribution and insight that she brought to the committee and wishes her well.

***** ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: *****

- Committee vacancy will be posted on the town website

6. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

- Electric Vehicles
 - Andrea Drabicki inquires if the van that the Commission on Aging is intending on purchasing for community seniors may be an electric vehicle? There is additional grant monies available for electric vehicle purchase through the state EV Connectivity Program.
- CT Connectivity Program
 - Andrea Drabicki attended CRCOG Transportation Committee Meeting and the CT DOT is offering municipalities a FREE Road Survey Audit (RSA). Towns are encouraged to select roads in their communities to be assessed for safety, connectivity, and destination place making
 - The deadline for RSA application are Tuesday, March 1, 2016
- CT Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound Meeting
 - A. Drabicki attended the quarterly meeting for CT Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound at CT Forest Association and updated the EAC about the agenda for the organizations, upcoming legislative agenda, and the pending impacts from the recent state budgetary cutbacks.

***** ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: *****

- Electric Vehicles
 - Natasha Nau will look into if van for seniors is eligible to be purchased with monies from more than one grant.
- CT Connectivity Program
 - Natasha Nau to talk to George Murphy, Public Works, and Paula Stahl, Town Planner to select some roads for RSA consideration.
 - A. Drabicki to fill out the application and submit to N. Nau for review.

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- 7. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 6.35 PM