

CPAC Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2009
City Hall Annex

Attendees: David Rabkin (chair), Betsy Boyle, Jan Dillon, Janet Curtis, John Francis, Jon Abe, Keren Schlomy, Kristin Lewis, Lauren Miller, Quinton Zondervan, Terrence Smith, Bill Zamparelli, Bill Trabilcy

Staff: Rosalie Anders, John Bolduc

Guests: Victoria Wolff, Sam Whittemore, John Pitkin, Lilah Glick

Update on Green Building/Zoning Task Force

- Iram Farooq, CDD Community Planning Division provided an update on recommendations of the task force and plans for zoning amendments.
 - Walked through draft recommendations that were presented to city council.
 - City council intends to implement aspects of Green Boiling practices through city ordinance, but there remain question on how to incorporate.
 - Wind turbine element of recommendations moved through council ahead of other recommendations at the council's request; action is expected on 9/28.
 - Wind proposal states "as of right" to be a 2 year maximum installed on rooftops, due to the uncertainty of the impacts of roof-mounted turbines in urban areas. Will provide valuable research on roof-mounted turbines in urban environments
 - Task force felt that new technology should be better vetted before it is allowed to be installed as of right throughout the city.
 - Questions/issues may arise with abutters
 - Terry Smith pointed out that the City staff is wary of upsetting neighbors – often push for new zoning which results in messy interaction; it is important to understand the political atmosphere in Cambridge before moving forward.
 - Recommend that new buildings meet LEED standards, but would not be required to obtain certification under LEED.

Meeting Minutes - Minutes from June 11, 2009 & August 13, 2009 were approved.

Report of the ET&P Director

- EECGB: \$1.1 million, DOE has reviewed application, the City expects to hear by Mid-October.
- Clean Cities Grant from DOER: Did not receive funding for hybrids and plug-in electric buses.
- EPA Climate Showcase: Decision expected in September

- Clean Energy Choice: \$57,000. Program is ending and the City must apply and use funds by November. Considering a solar PV feasibility study for WTP at Payson Reservoir in Belmont (owned by the City). The Department of Public Works has also put in for more big-belly solar trash compactors.
- The “home-rule” which would allow the City to contract with the Cambridge Energy Alliance directly (without RFP process) for energy advisory services will be voted on in the MA House of Representatives shortly.
- A regional bike sharing program coordinated has been enabled by MAPC selecting a contractor to operate the systems. It is up to individual communities to negotiate contracts with Bixi, the contractor. Bixi operates the Montreal bike sharing program.
- CitySmart will conclude its pilot in the Cambridgeport neighborhood in October with a final survey of respondents.
- Amy Meltzer has resigned due to family reasons. There are currently 3 open positions in CPAC. John Bolduc mentioned that we should consider reaching out to the faith and minority communities specifically. Asked for suggestions for appointments from the group.
- Jan Dillon pointed out that attendance at CPAC is dwindling and efforts should be made to increase attendance to ensure a quorum at each meeting.

Election of officers

- David Rabkin was re-elected as Chair
- Quinton Zondervan was elected as Vice-Chair
- Betsy Boyle was re-elected as Secretary
- All will serve a one-year term

Building energy labeling & Stretch Energy Code

- Jon Abe, CPAC & John Bolduc, CDD
- Discussion of key questions about the Stretch Energy Code
 - Adopted by MA BBRS
 - Councilor Davis has expressed interest in the Stretch Code
 - There will be two public information sessions in October with Q/A to attempt to address questions regarding the adoption of Stretch Code in the city. The City will also talk to major property owners to discuss their specific concerns.
 - CDD will report back to the City Council by 12/1.
 - For Green Communities Act funds, the City Council would need to vote to adopt the stretch energy code to meet one of the eligibility criteria.
 - For the code to take effect July 1, 2010, the City Council would need to adopt before January 1, 2010. Otherwise the next date it could be put into effect would be January 1, 2011. To meet the Green Communities eligibility criteria, only the vote of adoption is required; the City would not have to wait for the code to take effect in order to apply for Green Communities funding.
 - Terry Smith brought up the point that passage this December is key – the City will reelect officials in the fall of 2010.

- Discussion of key questions on building energy labels
 - Jon Abe thought that since the Stretch Code may be a difficult concept for some in the City to accept, it may not be wise to push building energy labeling at this time.
 - BEL would require a huge education effort in the City to properly be implemented. Besty Boyle suggested that BEL could be a tool to push green leases for existing rental property in the City. Possibly report building consumption as btu/sq ft ?
 - Janet Curtis mentioned there is policy analysis being done on BEL at the state level – likely no legislation since 2008 was a huge year for environmental bills and the legislature would prefer to focus elsewhere.
 - Jon Abe discussed a concept used in the UK, where private companies paid into a pot of money, attempted to make their offices more efficient, and the most efficient office received the entire pot of money. Rosalie Anders suggested that peer competition for may be more effective than financial drivers alone.

Minutes prepared by Lauren Miller