

City of Somerville, MA

Commission on Energy Use and Climate Change (CEUCC)

July 13, 2011

Meeting Minutes

Commission Members Present:

- Andrea Ranger (Chair), David Lutes, Alyssa Rosen, Peter McPhee, Juliette Rooney-Varga

Other Attendees Present:

- Sara Schley (Seed Systems), Wig Zamore

7:00 Meeting called to order

7:10 Presentation by Sara Schley of Seed Systems

- Sara made a presentation on her work on systems thinking and its potential benefit to Somerville
- Sara asked What would the City want from a systems thinking training?
 - CEUCC members discussed how this could into municipal decision making, making goals for integrating into decision making process, having Somerville City leadership with resident support.
 - Part of the process would be to map stakeholders in the city
 - Idea is to get people to focus on the issues and to get them into the same room
 - Make these ideas more institutionalized instead of temporary.
- Comment by Wig Zamore
 - Focus on business development in more urban areas by leveraging local business leaders. This could incorporate more than just City employees.
 - Sara responds: Systems thinking would map out assertions, etc. going into defining system. This could be used to determine win-wins. The best plan is one that gets all stakeholders in a room together to identify local goals.
- Sara explains the basics of systems thinking:
 - Concepts, Relationships, Actions
 - Observable events are underlined by patterns, structures, mental models, feelings, and ultimately a vision.
 - To address this kind of structure for Climate and Energy Use, there are Climate Policy Simulation Tools
 - Interactive, unbiased, allow social/role playing, affective learning (i.e. “how are you feeling about it”)
- Question from Andrea Ranger: What actions have resulted from this kind of work?

- Primarily results in private sector, though sector not relevant. It is really to change attitudes.
- There have been new designs from businesses, better reorganization in state agencies
- Sara wraps up presentation.

8:40 Somerville's developing Residential Energy Efficiency Program

- David updates the commission on the program's status. 50 resumes were received. 6 people are being interviewed through the end of next week. Hoping to make a decision in the coming few weeks.
- David is compiling information on similar municipal programs.
- David stated that Serraffx was given a Barr Foundation grant to assist us in this work.
- Somerville will meet with Century Bank to discuss Loan Loss Reserve, market HEAT loan
- David will try to bring new employee to next CEUCC meeting

8:50 Green Communities Act funding

- GC Division will give comments back on Somerville energy plan
- Next week they will announce how much funding has been authorized to Somerville.
- After that, we will learn how to apply for that funding in detail

9:05 Discussion re: CEUCC logistics

- Eric Becker has resigned his position on CEUCC, as he has moved out of state.
- We should begin search for a new member
- Note: there was no June meeting.

9:10 Meeting Adjourned