Climate Action Brookline 9.14.15 Meeting Minutes

Announcements:

- Boston EV day- Saturday September 19, 2015- Larz Anderson- 8:30- 10:30
- Climate Week- campaign for 2016 September 24, 2015 kickoff meeting 7:45 am
- Alternate vehicle day tryout- pending liability approval; Brookline bicycle day May 22-pending approval of selectmen - Electrical wheel, Copenhagen wheel, Dutch bicycle
- September 29, 2015- hearing at the state house regarding Mass Power Forward - infrastructure (i.e. gas lines), bills on table
- Mass350.org march – is there one?

Tom Vittolo:

Explained Warrant Articles 13-14 to be discussed at November Town Meeting

Article 13- selectmen can choose Brookline’s default energy supplier (Eversource has wires, but supplier can change)
- can opt out, but default changed (can get sliver of savings)
- can get cleaner energy- 50% renewable (now energy 25% renewable, Mass Energy better)
- reduce carbon emissions by 8%, greatest magnitude of change that town government can do
- need to pay an average of $7 more for average homeowner (based on use)
- broker procurement -> need to get approved by utility and attorney general office (>12 month process)
- 7 selectmen are in favor, 240 selectmen in all to sway
- talk to town leaders to become effective

Article 14- purpose is to support Article 13, but to give the board of selectmen a push from community to get greener energy for the default supplier

David Leschoier:

Community-shared Solar- child of CAB (last 6 months)
- solarize campaign last summer- discount to install solar panels
- now want to broaden vision:
  - program for everyone who wants to increase use of electricity from solar
  - more beneficial than programs financially (power purchase only 5% change)
    - local benefits (renter, condo owner, business, anyone can participate)
  - Different components: Energy, hardware, software, money, people
- reliable, town-backed
- different ways to go: own payment to buy solar panels (tax payments) or lease certain amount of solar panels (subscription) or simple purchase agreement

Approached Housing Authority:

Town Properties (Devotion School, evaluating other buildings)
- Next 6 weeks will get report (transfer station- 1.4 megawatts)
-Now only 2 solar arrays now
-Benefit to town and taxpayers
-Thinking of arrays, e.g. parking lots
-Contacted Co-Op Power, Greenfield- fund from socially responsible investors
-Social Media to attract customers-> not good match
-Airbnb model –match roofs with sun partners
Solar panels and benefits are local- next couple months the group will come to conclusions and recommendations
-research to come up with solution that is compatible with Brookline, not many different options

Mary Dewart and Kathleen Scanlon:
**Mass Energy- extended partnership with Mothers Out Front**
-extend into November
-170 signups-> an average of 2 signups per weeks
-Next steps
  -door hangers, signs (spreads awareness, more people sign up)
  -gain confidence in program (neighbors)
  -best endorsement
  -month to month subscription
  -PTO meetings, coffees
  -backpack flyer at public schools

**Divest movement across colleges** (MIT, Harvard, Brandeis)
-MIT climate countdown meet October 2, 12-2 -> “stand for science, not for the Koch brothers”

Transportation as energy issue- disregarded
-only sector that has increased emissions
-In California, legislation passed to reduce 50% of oil in vehicles by 2030
-reduce oil consumption by 30% in Brookline?
-put on agenda
-need more charging stations and electrical vehicles
  -two currently in Brookline – Town Hall parking lot; Babcock St parking lot
-http://www.plugshare.com/