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10/19/2011 Minutes

VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP
 OCTOBER 19, 2011 MEETING

SUSTAINABLE ARLINGTON
 Senior Center

In attendance: Shelly Dein, Chad Gibson, David Haas, Elizabeth Karpati, David Landskov, Gail McCormick, Charlotte Milan, Brucie Moulton, Scott Samenfeld, Mike Wolfson.

Facilitator: Charlotte Milan

Minutes: Elizabeth Karpati

Next meetings: Thurs. Nov. 17, Wed. Dec. 14; 7:30 p.m. in Senior Center, Ground Floor.

- Chad Gibson of the East Arlington Livable Streets Coalition gave a presentation about his organization. EALS works on issues of sustainable transportation – e.g. the Mass.Ave. project, bus shelters, bike racks, Alewife Brook Greenway, Green Line extension – and cooperates with groups like Walking in Arlington and the bicycle committee. It is also concerned with trees, e.g. where they should be planted vs. power lines and solar panels.
- It was suggested that SA should have a liaison with the Tree Committee and make sure the latter is included in EcoFest.
- EcoFest will take place March 31, 2012. The first planning meeting has already been held. SA will take a leading role in planning it but the Town will deal with inviting vendors. The theme will be local food. Big-name speakers are expensive but Frances Moore Lappe lives in Belmont and could be asked if she would do a local event for less. Any films should be scheduled before EcoFest. If any food is involved, avoid non-recyclable materials like styrofoam cups.
- Nominations (or volunteers) for the Steering Committee – Co-chairs, Secretary, Treasurer -- should be e-mailed to Charlotte. Elizabeth is hoping someone else will run for secretary. Volunteers are also needed for the non-elected positions – Outreach, Website; representatives to MCAN, Energy Working Group (appointed by the Town), Vision 2020 (Elizabeth volunteered). Co-chairs or co-representatives could share the workload.
- A tour of the Deer Island treatment plant (daytime on a weekday, limited to 15) is being discussed. If it cannot be done in the next couple of weeks, it should wait until April. Some high school students want to be included.
- The MCAN conference will be held November 13 in the Stata building at MIT. We agreed to be a chapter sponsor, using up to \$50 of the money we receive for signing up people for energy audits.
- Use of the Busa Farm land is still under discussion by the Lexington Selectmen; the most likely outcome seems to be some combination of community farm and affordable housing.
- "Climate Reality" was a recent 24-hour on-line event organized by Al Gore: the same speech repeated every hour in a different country and different language. It would be possible to get a speaker on this topic for a joint event with neighboring communities, perhaps for Earth Day, but somebody would have to volunteer to coordinate the event.
- Transition Arlington is hosting a film on October 28 at the First Parish on "How Cuba Faced Peak Oil."
- The rain garden in Spy Pond Park has been planted, and we have applied for a grant from the Arlington Cultural Council for signs to be made by Hardy School students.
- Next Step Living is continuing to try to get households for energy audits, is aiming for 5% of households each year. Information about all households included in the thermal imaging project will be put on a website. SA gets a small payment for each house imaged or audited.