



## Vision 2020 Sustainable Arlington Minutes

August 19, 2015

Town Hall Annex, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room

Present: Ashka Naik, Lizzie Linn Casanave, Scott Samenfeld, Davis Landskov, Erin Taylor, Laura Notman, Anne Goodwin, DeAnne Dupont, Gail McCormick (Chair), Charlotte Milan (reporting)

Minutes: June 16, 2015 minutes reviewed and approved with a few amendments. There was no meeting in July.

### Town Day planning

SA will share a table with Vision 2020. Supplies needed include the SA banner, EcoFest 2015 materials information and posters, signup sheets, name tags, T-shirts, and some information about current SA activities (Charlotte will draft), both to offer visitors and to use for volunteers. 2 volunteers per shift are preferred, David will create a Sign Up Genius. All materials should be brought to Laura's house so she can bring them on Sept 12 by 8am to the table.

### Forming a coalition with Mothers Out Front (MoF)

Erin Taylor is an Arlington resident who works with Mass Energy, the non profit working with MoF to plan a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program for the town. CCA would be an opt-in, opt-out or opt-greener consumer electricity purchasing arrangement that could lead to lower electricity prices as well as more renewable energy generation in the whole of that generation portfolio.

Currently, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, of which Arlington is a member, is looking for a broker to represent the group of communities. As a Town Meeting form of government our Town Meeting would have to vote to adopt the new generator as our Town's default provider, but all residents maintain the ability to make an independent choice of energy provider.

### Discussion-

- Region has distribution problems, how will such an aggregation project take these into account?
- Storage and smart grid capability are growing concerns
- Energy efficiency and gas leaks are also key to reducing demand from the system
- Participating in building a coalition would lead to SA members having a basic understanding of these issues and a willingness to reach out to our sphere of influence to educate them on the topic

VOTED: SA is interested in being part of a community choice aggregation of consumer electricity coalition with MoF.

SA T-shirts

VOTED: Ashka and Laura can spend up to \$1000 to produce and purchase T shirts

HEET Fundraiser support

VOTED: SA will sponsor the HEET fundraising event as a silver sponsor with \$500.

EcoFest 2016 Planning

Theme is Climate Change "In Your Back Yard", actions we can take at home. Gail will announce a working group meeting, new volunteers welcome to join the planning.

Report of Mugar Coalition

Those concerned preventing the large development may also be interested in Community Choice Aggregation

New Business

1. Vision 2020 wants to know our suggestions for spending the budget; suggestions include upkeep of electronic tools (websites, survey and newsletter fees), printing educational materials (such as our town day costs), storage for group materials in a publicly accessible location (not a private home), speaker fees for events
2. National Endowment for the Arts grant received by True Story Theater to work with V2020, the Diversity Task Group and Sustainable Arlington- will be great outreach opportunity for us, large planning/visioning meeting on September 9 at Town Hall (all invited), targeting planning group could use a few more SA members in addition to Charlotte.

Next Meeting September 17, 2015

Town Hall Annex, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room

## Town Day 2015 DRAFT

### Sustainable Arlington's current activities:

1. Community Choice Aggregation- Harnessing the purchasing power of 43,000 Arlingtonians to get better prices, more choice, and more renewable energy choices for everyone. A coalition is forming- be part of the early planning or sign up for the neighbor-to-neighbor education campaign.
2. EcoFest 2016- *In Your Backyard- Combating climate change at home*. Find practical activities you can undertake in your home, landscape and neighborhood to be prepared for a resilient future in the face of climate change. Free community event, Town Hall, Saturday March XX 2016.
3. Community Preparedness –We face extreme weather conditions and health and safety challenges associated with climate change predictions being made in our region. How will our community come together to take care of our most vulnerable residents and resources?