

## Westwood Environmental Advisory Committee

Monday June 28, 2010  
Approved Minutes



Attending: Chris Balfe, Pierre Biscaye, Christine Blaney,  
Gregory Mountain (*Sec'ty*), Yash Risbud  
Regrets: Michael Ruane (*Chair*), Cindy Waneck  
Visitor: John Schneider

Mountain called mtg to order at 7:40pm

Minutes of previous mtg approved + seconded

### Review of Westwood Pride Day

All agreed it was very successful + worth participating in next year  
Pamphlets, etc. provided by Blaney were plentiful, informative + helpful

Blaney reported we collected 41 Green Pledges

See spreadsheet summary in email from Lorraine

Where else could these be posted / distributed?

Schools (Green Team already discussed w/ Rick Woods helping here)

DPW re-cycling center

Library

Summer Concerts-on-the-Green / Movie Night

How will pledges be used?

Accreditation for SustainableNJ

Incentive for others to make similar pledge

Core of citizens sensitive to Green lifestyle

Full benefits yet to be determined

Balfe reported we have ~200 reuseable shopping bags remaining

Will still be good next year

Suggests in future we add environmental chatchkas for children

### John Schneider was invited to profile solar collection options

He grew up in Westwood, now lives in Wash Twnshp, is Gen'l Contractor

Experience with assessing, designing, installing solar collectors

Technology in 2 basic groups, with further subdivision types

Solar-hot water with 3 types of heat collectors (up to 80% efficient)

Flat plate – water in copper capillaries against black plate carries heat

Vacuum – water in vacuum tubes loses less heat than capillaries

Concentrated – uses substitute liquid that can carry temps up to 750°F

First 2 used in homes for heat/hotwater, ~\$12K installation

Solar-voltaic produces electric current directly

17-19% efficient

Ironically, efficiency decreases in very hot climates

Produces DC power; energy loss converting to AC

Reasons for town to consider despite inefficiency

Can use electricity that is generated

- Can sell surplus electricity back to public utility
- Get energy credits from NJ Board of Public Utilities
  - Few \$10's – several \$100's per kW produced
  - Value fluctuates; is capped

#### Installation issues for solar-voltaic system

- Panels should face true south + be tilted at our latitude (41°)
- Trees present obvious limitation; should have clear line to sun
- Installation costs ~ \$5-\$6 per watt of produced DC power
  - Not sensible to install < 500 kW which is ~ 20,000 sq m of panels
  - Payback in roughly 6-8 years

#### Where install?

- Municipal parking lots (Boro Hall, Center Ave, ...)
  - As 'car port' - like covers over parking areas
  - Additional benefit: provides protection from rain, sun, snow
- Privately owned parking lots? (e.g., Westwood Plaza)
  - Probably difficult to convince owner(s)

#### Roofs

- Municipal bldgs (DPW, Firehouse, Library, BoroHall)
- Commercial bldgs (K-Mart, movie theater, etc. same challenge as above)
- Residential (probably v few oriented well with clear sunlight)
  - With few exceptions, economy of scale is problem (ie, too small)

EnCom will meet late August, discuss + consider inviting John to Sept mtg

Meanwhile he will run models

- To assess cost/benefit at several locations
- Will report model results to full EnCom

Choices of solar-voltaic installation include (not limited to) either

- Town pays for + owns installation + gets energy credits, or
- Town pays nothing but uses solar-generated electricity

#### Green Team – Blaney reported

Met early June with Hoffman, Woods + another from DPW, Phayre, Stokes

Need 10 more points to reach Bronze level on SustainableNJ scale

Have 140 now, need 150 by Sept 1

How?

EnCom unprepared on the spot to advance best strategy

- Will come to August meeting prepared to discuss

Blaney will email list of SustainableNJ actions that could gain us points

#### Hydroelectric test-bed project – Risbud reported

Site in brook across Westwood Ave from DPW has been examined

Unexpected abundance of suspended material + floating debris

- Particulates present concerns to selection of submerged turbine

- Flexibility in exact location in stream is limited

Feasibility study as test-bed is ongoing but not ready by Sept 1 for Green Team

#### Rain Barrels – Blaney reported on 'Train the Trainers Program'

what

- Training fair in construction, use of rain barrels

- Participants given materials to build barrel @ \$45

why

Buffer against flash run-off and road-surface contamination washed into streams  
Provides homeowner water for lawn, gardens  
Tightly covered to prevent mosquito infestation

where

Rutgers Coop Extension of Middlesex County  
Davidson Mill Pond Park  
42 Riva Ave.  
North Brunswick, NJ 08902

[http://www.water.rutgers.edu/Stormwater\\_Management/rainbarrels.html#home](http://www.water.rutgers.edu/Stormwater_Management/rainbarrels.html#home)

when

July 22 6:30-8:30pm

Next mtg

Due to absence of Ruane, Wanek + timely input requested by Green Team next mtg tentatively set for Monday Aug 23 at 7:30pm in Boro Hall

Mtg adjourned 9:30pm