

Sustainable Belmont Meeting Minutes – 10/07/09

Attendees: Tony Alcorn, Ed Chrisafi, Martha Jacorredes, Phil Reilly, Pat Reilly, Kelly Freitas and Helen Sahi (Energy New England), Anna Churchlll, Don Button, Jan Kruse, Paul Solomon, Marty Cohen, Bruce Bell, Karla O'Brien, Hank Thidemann, Priscilla Cobb, Jeannette Conrod, Carolyn Bishop, Phil Thayer, and Alice Bolen.

Sustainable Belmont Chair Jan Kruse opened the meeting at 7:05 pm and, as there were several new attendees and guests, asked that all around the table introduce themselves and give a word of their relevant affiliations or interest in this meeting. Jan then briefly outlined the agenda emphasizing that the big topic of the meeting would be a discussion of Barbara Kingsolver's book "Animal, Vegetable or Miracle" led by librarian Marion McNair, as part of One Book, One Belmont.

Jan then introduced Ed Chrisafi who spoke about the new BMLD "Green Element" program in which institutions and businesses have received a letter notifying them of the availability of adding a sustainability component to their commercial energy audit. This green element brings in a sustainability expert who looks at ways the business can conserve water, save energy and money through computer choices and other technology devices, green cleaning supplies and other measures. This is also conducted through their energy audi subcontractor, Energy New England.

Ed then introduced Helen Sahi of Energy New England and Kelly Freitas who spoke about the new Green/Sustainable concepts and practices offered to commercial entities as well as the energy audits.

There followed an intense discussion around the table of energy conservation, energy audits, and how to do some of this yourself, such as using the Kilowatt meter that the BMLD will purchase for patrons to check out at the library.

Jan next introduced Miriam McNair of the Belmont Public Library who led the discussion of the book *Animal, Vegetable or Miracle* by Barbara Kingsolver. The discussion lengthy, spirited and had many different points of view projected into it.

Jan then moved the meeting along to cover more specific Sustainable Belmont matters:

- The International Climate Action Day to be held at the old North Bridge in Concord and some 5,000 other locations around the world.
- Sign making and bell ringing at the First Church on the International Climate Action Day on Oct. 24.
- The input SB is making in the Open Space, Housing, and Transportation and Energy working groups that are part of the Town of Belmont Comprehensive Planning effort.

Jan closed the meeting at 9:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Tony Alcorn.

