

Sustainable Belmont Meeting Minutes – 01/06/10

Attendees: Jan Kruse, Tony Alcorn, John McAlpin, Anna Churchill, Paul Solomon, Ron Geiger, Dorothy Herzog, John Herzog, John Kolterman, Ed Crisafi, Phil Thayer, Marty Cohen and Judy Otto

Chair Jan Kruse opened the meeting at 7:05 pm and asked all around the table to introduce themselves and to make a brief statement of their interests and involvements in Sustainable Belmont.

Jan then covered several items in the Sustainable Belmont newsletter, noting and recommending attendance at the BMLD meeting on the proposed 115 KV substation on 11/27/10 and at the Belmont Comprehensive Planning meetings on 1/14/10 and 1/26/10. Jan asked if there any other questions or issues relating to the newsletter.

John Herzog asked about what recycling web sites are available. The response was the web site “Free Cycle” allows the free exchange of items as an alternative to dumping them.

Jennifer Page posed the question as to what activities Sustainable Belmont should be involved in now that the CAP and the Energy Committee are posed to take off. Jennifer proposed that we work around the edges of the CAP in areas such as the residence education, the MCAN program “Cool Mass”, promoting energy audits, sustainable gardening and others.

Jan then described the Cool Mass program as a community program in which groups of households (7 -8 or so per group) are established to work on CO2 reduction. The program also looks for entities such a schools and churches to become involved in CO2 reduction. MCAN is now looking for interested communities to apply to this program by this coming Feb 8, and to be prepared to go through training this spring. In the Fall there will be a “train the trainer” program where people so trained will be expected to train others. The people in the several households in a group will meet and discuss ways to reduce CO2 emissions. Once CO2 reduction is underway, results will be recorded and compiled through an online calculator available on MCAN web site. There could be competition between groups in a town, and also between towns. Jan suggested we could write and apply for a grant to buy the books that will be needed. Jan asked the group whether or not we should apply to the Cool Mass program and group voted yes.

Jan and John McAlpin agreed to fill out the application and asked for volunteers to contact other organizations in town to solicit letters of support (needed for the application). Jan will send out an email on what should be in the letter of support.

Jan announced that Ralph Jones will speak at our meeting in March and will address water conservation. There will also be a guest speaker on the issue of CO2 and food at the April meeting.

John McAlpin introduced the video “The Story of Stuff,” which was followed by a lively discussion with many points of view.

Jan closed the meeting at 9:00 pm.

Minutes submitted by Tony Alcorn.