



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
CLERK OF COMMITTEES

February 9, 2012

REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Rebekah Gewirtz	Chair	Present	
Maryann M. Heuston	Vice chair	Absent	
Sean T. O'Donovan	Ward Five Alderman	Present	
Bruce M. Desmond	Alderman At Large	Present	
John M Connolly	Alderman At Large	Present	
William M. Roche	Ward One Alderman	Present	
David Lutes	Environmental Programs Manager	Present	
Stan Koty	Public Works Commissioner	Present	
Alicia Berta	Member	Present	

190218 - That this Board requests that the Administration investigate the availability of grant funding for electric car charging stations being offered by the state.:

Mr. Lutes spoke about the history of the proposed grant and said that he is working with Traffic and Parking and OSPCD to find acceptable locations so that the city might take advantage of this. Mr. Lutes will continue to search for similar opportunities and grants and will research how many municipalities have received these grants. The committee will follow up in the next few months.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

190343 - Requesting approval of a Resolution that the Office of Sustainability and Environment work with the Mayor's Office to convene a Public Somerville Climate Summit.:

Mr. Lutes discussed the hurdles involved in finding funding and said that he would like to use the Green Community Act Funding but the Department of Energy Resources won't allow that. The commission meets monthly and the administration is prepared to move forward. Mr. Lites has been in contact with individuals who can provide resources for the Summit. The estimated cost would be \$15,000 -\$20,000. A greenhouse gas inventory needs to be done as well as gathering background material on what other communities have done. There will be a meeting with the commissioner in the future to plan a summit.

RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE

190907 - That the Commissioner of Public Works make inquires on the purchase or lease of a snow melting machine and report back to the chair of Environment and Energy with cost projections.:

Mr. Koty explained the need to be able to get rid of snow in the future and said that a snow melting machine would require a \$360,000 investment. The melting of snow would only be able to be done at North Union Street in Assembly Square because there is a direct line to Deer Island at that location. Mr. Koty suggested contacting other communities to inquire if they would be willing to melt their snow Somerville's melter for a fee. Mr. Koty will update the committee at the beginning of March.

RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE

191053 - That the Environmental Programs Manager inform this Board of the city's efforts to use green cleaning products in all buildings and advise on whether an ordinance requiring this is warranted.:

Mr. Lutes stated that 50-65% of materials being used are green. The AM/PM contract for the high school and Winter Hill School require green products and are at an 85% level. The remainder of buildings are working towards that 85% goal, however, in some cases, green products can not be used. Mr. Lutes discussed a state policy that has been amended due to changes in products. Chairman Gewirtz would like to review the Brookline ordinance on this subject and prefers to put an ordinance into effect now because the next administration may not want to enact such an ordinance. Mr. Lutes feels that an ordinance may be restrictive. This will be revisited in March.

RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE

192235 - That the Commissioner of Public Works advise this Board of the timeline for delivering single stream recycling totes to medium to large condo buildings.:

Chairman Gewirtz spoke about condo owners not receiving individual totes. Mr. Koty stated that extras totes were collected and were provided to people wanting them. Apartment building owners are being charged for the totes if they use private contractors to collect their trash. Mr. Koty spoke about the concerns of property owners and Mr. Lutes explained that some large buildings don't need a tote for each unit. He will continue to work with building owners/residents to determine what their needs are.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

192524 - Environment Massachusetts requesting support of a bill to raise the cap on the state's net-metering program, to support solar energy.:

Mr. Lutes stated he is not prepared to comment on this item at this time. Chairman Gewirtz would like to circulate the letter for review. The committee will revisit this issue in March.

RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE
