

# EAQAC Minutes

April 13, 2011

Absent: Paul Bubbosh, Steve Gibb, Jody Foster, Alan Miller, Steve Shaw, Ted Sears

There was a quorum for about an hour, but the minutes from March were not addressed in that period, so their approval is deferred to May.

The acting Chair noted that there seemed to be a lack of enthusiasm amongst EAQAC members. She suggested a re-focus was required and that two or three issues should be addressed and taken to full conclusion, rather than initiated and then dropped in the absence of a positive result. Issues to take forward were discussed, as noted below. All members present were asked if there were issues they would like to address. The two issues raised (radon and commercial energy use) are addressed below. Bernie Bloom also noted that the EAQAC website was out of date, with the last minutes posted being those of October 2010. In addition, the Radon Proclamation was not listed. Members were asked to go to the website and note if anything else was missing. If so they should email Melitta Carter who will compile a list and forward it to Eric Coffman, who agreed to have the website up to date by the May meeting.

Sam Raker asked if we can see how many hits our website receives. Eric said this was not possible.

## **Issues to Address:**

### **Indoor air quality and radon**

The quorum agreed that EAQAC is in a good position to push the county on radon issues, particularly ensuring that for new homes, the permitting requirements are met. The previous head of DPS has resigned and the acting head is Jenifer Hughes. Bernie informed EAQAC that there is a lot happening on the issue of radon in the US and that it would be a good time to address this in MoCo. Bernie will put together some information on this and send it out to members before the next meeting at which time we will discuss what action EAQAC will take.

### **Commercial Study Assessment**

The idea is to design policies to achieve a 25% reduction in energy consumption by 2020. DEP has two sets of consultants working on this, MCFA and ICF. A draft report will be ready in November. EAQAC requested to have input into the report. Eric replied that there are many groups and organizations who will want/need to provide input. Eric will send out the scope

documents to EAQAC. Members should submit their comments to Jim McDonnell who will compile them into a report to be discussed at the May meeting. EAQAC requested that Eric ask one of the consultants to be present at that meeting. Eric said he would let us know if that would be possible. It was suggested that the consultant could come at 8pm to enable us to do other business first, without taking up too much of the consultant's time (which DEP is paying for). Melitta will contact Eric before the next meeting to find out if the consultant will be present.

### **DEP Update:**

Eric went through the online application for the Commercial and Multi-Family Rebate Program available at [MCEnergyFunding.com](http://MCEnergyFunding.com). Members considered it had been very well developed and thought out. There are a lot of requirements to fulfill, but since the rebate is a full 50% of project cost (up to a maximum of \$75,000), they expect to have sufficient demand and to fund between 30 and 50 projects. The first round closes on the 15<sup>th</sup> April and the second round one month later. Projects will be selected based on a point system.

Questions were asked about expected energy savings from these projects and cost effectiveness. This will only be known ex-post. Surveys will be conducted after the projects are completed, and utility bills will be examined for at least one year prior and one year post the project. A sound analysis is crucial to assess how effective different retrofits have been. This is something EAQAC should follow, even though results on energy-savings will not be available for over two years.

The Residential Rebate Program will go live soon. Eric will present it at the May meeting.

### **Action Items:**

1. All members to review the EAQAC website in the next week. Alert Melitta if Products missing. Melitta to forward to Eric, who will update.
2. Bernie to email members on new issues in Radon.
3. Eric to send scope document about commercial study to members. All members to send comments to Jim.
4. Eric to ask commercial study consultant to come to May meeting. Melitta to coordinate.