

**Waban Area Council  
Meeting Minutes  
March 8, 2018 7:30pm**

**Present from the Waban Area Council:** Bob Jampol, Rena Getz, Chris Pitts, Sallee Lipschutz, Kathryn Winters, Dinah Bodkin, Patrick Maher.

**City Councilor:** John Rice

**Others Present:** Nelson Lipschutz, Laura Rosen, Cory Aslperstein, Laura Steinberg, Steve Sugil, Alan Noguee.

**Presentation by Ann Berwick, Co-Director of Sustainability for the City of Newton on Newton Power Choice:** Newton Power Choice is a Municipal Aggregation Program that allows Newton residents to choose their level of support for renewable energy sources. The choice residents make does not actually change the composition (nonrenewable v renewable) of electricity in their homes. Rather the “renewable energy” option results in the generation of REC’s or renewable energy credits, which then increases economic incentives for the industry to shift towards renewable sources for electricity production. The program has been authorized by the City Council and will go into effect in the fall. All particulars can be learned at [NewtonPowerChoice.com](http://NewtonPowerChoice.com). Laya Steinberg and Cory Alperstein, from Newton Coalition for Climate Action were present and made an impassioned case for residents to opt in to the maximum renewable level and for Newton to lead in the Renewable Energy effort. Opting in to higher levels of renewable energy results in a modest cost increase. Some discussion ensued as to whether the REC’s will result in a “greener grid.” Not all members of the public, or the WAC were convinced of the efficacy of this approach.

**February Minutes:** Approved

**Treasurer’s Report Approved:** No changes since last month.

**Burning Issues from the Community:** None

**Proposed Medical Marijuana Dispensary at 1152 Beacon St:** RG reviewed the Newton Highlands NAC meeting she attended where New

England Cannabis Corporation presented its proposal. 35 abutters were present, and RG reported considerable skepticism as to the safety and wisdom of this location (near a school, near a park). Discussion ensued as to whether and when WAC should also host a forum to air concerns about this proposal

**Zoning Reform Update:** Meeting on Thurs Mar 15 at 6:30pm in the Newton Library. Aspirational content will be discussed.

**WAC blast email content:** CP: we have a 45-50% open rate. Agreed that blast emails should only pertain to material directly related to WAC or material that the City asks WAC to send out.

**Meeting adjourned:** 9:30 om

**Respectfully submitted by Dinah Bodkin**