



## SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

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Laura Olton, Chair

Susan Morris, Vice Chair

Cindy Mahr

Ellen Korpi

Fred Bungler

Lise Olney

Martha Collins

### SEC Monthly Meeting

Remote Zoom Meeting

April 2, 2021

### Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:32 a.m. by Susan Morris (Sustainable Energy Committee (SEC) Vice Chair). Present were SEC members: Laura Olton (SEC Chair), Sue Morris, Lise Olney, Fred Bungler, Ellen Korpi, Cindy Mahr, and Martha Collins. Also present were Marybeth Martello (Sustainable Energy Director), Janet Mosley (SEC Analyst), Deed McCollum (Advisory Committee Liaison), Mary Gard and Pamela Posey.

**Citizens' Speak** – None.

### Minutes

Ellen Korpi moved to approve the SEC's March 5 meeting minutes. Fred seconded the motion *and the Committee voted to approve the March 5 meeting minutes.*

### Climate Action Plan (CAP) Update

Marybeth gave an update on progress on the CAP.

- Highlights from the consultant selection process include:
  - The selection committee members were Marybeth, Janet, Laura, Fred, and Martha.
  - The Request for Proposal attracted 7 responses and 4 firms were interviewed.
  - A thorough reference check of references was conducted, which confirmed the selection committee's first choice. This process also created new contact networks with potential future benefits for the SEC.
  - Kim Lundgren Associates (KLA), a consultant group that has completed 16 CAP plans (8 in Massachusetts), was selected as the consultant to assist with Wellesley's CAP.
- A meeting is scheduled with KLA, Marybeth, Janet, and Laura for next Thursday, April 8.
- The CAP Steering Committee will meet on Tuesday, April 6 to review the technical proposal to prepare questions in advance of the above meeting.

## **Preparing for Annual Town Meeting (ATM) 2021**

- In addition to a video presentation that Town Meeting members can view in advance to ATM, the SEC will have two minutes during TM to present each motion in Article 24.
- Ellen Korpi will contact Susan Clapham to arrange a time for Marybeth to present at the League of Women Voters' ATM preparation meeting on April 15.
- The Advisory Committee voted 8-5 in favor of Article 24, Motion 1 (new GHG reduction goals). Concerns raised by some Advisory members highlighted the need for more publicity, public awareness, and an education campaign to raise support for Article 24. Marybeth is already working on this with Martha, Roopa, and the High School Climate Action Club.
- Concerns raised by Advisory members regarding Article 24, Motion 1 centered on:
  1. Whether GHG reduction goals were too aggressive – more ambitious than what the town can achieve;
  2. The fact that the town has very little ability to control traffic in Wellesley or private sector actions in the buildings and waste categories; and
  3. Whether the SEC has accurate data to track changes in emissions, especially in the transportation category.
- The SEC discussed data and methods currently available for calculating vehicle emissions and those that could be available in the near future as well as pathways for influencing vehicle emissions in Wellesley.
- Marybeth presented a draft outline of the video presentation for Town Meeting. The SEC discussed ways to optimize the presentation to highlight key reasons for adopting the new GHG reduction goals and address concerns raised by Advisory members and others.
- A press release will be written to announce the Town's hiring of KLA and the official start of the CAP process. Sustainable Wellesley members are drafting an article highlighting the importance of CAP.

## **Recent Massachusetts Climate Legislation**

*An Act Creating a Next-Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy* (Acts of 2021, Chapter 8; Senate Bill No. 9) was signed by Governor Baker on March 26. Laura provided the committee with a memo summarizing key measures in the legislation along with a timeline provided by Senator Barrett's office.

## **Project Updates**

- Several SEC members attended a Tree Seminar, which will help build knowledge and add value during CAP implementation.
- The SEC's work with Planning on sustainable zoning amendments will take longer than hoped, due to a new, more comprehensive approach including Site Plan Review. However, Fred feels the outcome of the process will be strong. The Sustainable Zoning Working Group is now meeting weekly and laying a good foundation for collaboration.
- The Sustainable Mobility Meeting on April 15 is open to all residents.

## **Additional Business**

The Municipal Light Plant launched their heat pump pilot program as part of the March 31 Green Collaborative. The High School Climate Action Club will help with a viral campaign for the program, and MLP will reach out to home builders. Fred reminded the committee of several existing barriers to heat pump adoption, including setback requirements in the zoning bylaws and Town permitting process requirements.

**Adjourn**

Martha Collins motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 a.m., seconded by Sue Morris, *and the Committee voted to adjourn.*

**Exhibits Used:** March 5 Meeting Minutes, KLA Price Proposal, KLA Technical Proposal, Highlights of MA Act Creating Next Gen Roadmap for Climate Policy, Project Updates