

TOWN OF WELLESLEY



MASSACHUSETTS

## CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE

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Sustainability Director: Marybeth Martello

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Laura Olton, Chair

Susan Morris, Vice Chair

Cynthia Mahr

Ellen Korpi

Martha Collins

Fred Bungler

Lise Olney

### Climate Action Committee Meeting

June 16, 2022

Remote Zoom Meeting

#### Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Sue Morris. Present were Climate Action Committee (CAC) members: Laura Olton (CAC Chair), Sue Morris (CAC Vice Chair), Lise Olney, Martha Collins, Fred Bungler, and Ellen Korpi. Also present were Marybeth Martello (Sustainability Director), Janet Mosley (CAC Analyst), Andrew Myers (CAC intern), Doug Smith (Advisory Liaison), Mary Gard, and Peter Litman. Absent: Cynthia Mahr.

**Citizen's Speak:** None

#### **Announcements**

Ellen introduced Peter Litman as a new CAC volunteer.

#### **Minutes**

Ellen Korpi requested to add the following sentences to the May 6 minutes.

The challenge is that the benefit of WMLP's low rates (more than 50% less at present) is realized in the operating budgets of these entities but the investment in energy efficiency and beneficial electrification is charged to capital budgets. The MLP is thinking about how we might address this perception issue by these commercial customers.

Fred moved to approve the meeting minutes from May 6 as amended, seconded by Sue Morris, *and the Committee voted to approve the amended May 6 meeting minutes.*

#### **Lisa Wolf, Wellesley Municipal Light Plant (WMLP) Sustainability Coordinator**

Ellen introduced Lisa Wolf to the committee. Lisa then spoke about her background and the initiatives she is focusing on for the MLP:

- Working with Center for EcoTechnology to see if WMLP could use a tariff-on-bill mechanism to finance residential home energy efficiency and clean energy projects

- Identifying a Decarbonization audit that WMLP can promote and subsidize
- Encouraging home owners interested in heat pumps to work with Abode, who provides a quality control check.

The committee discussed methods for helping WMLP spread the word about these programs when they are up and running.

### **Climate Action Plan and Implementation Blueprints**

Marybeth requested that the CAP Working Groups revisit the implementation blueprints for actions that are currently in progress with the goal of posting the implementation blueprints online as an appendix to the CAP soon.

### **Website Updates**

Marybeth shared that she and Janet met with Brian Dupont about the CAP dashboard design. Janet will be working more on this project starting in July.

### **Advocacy**

Lise gave an update on the State climate bills H4524 and S2842 (an amendment to H4524). The committee discussed how best to carry out advocacy for various measures within these bills.

### **Sustainable Buildings Initiatives**

#### *BETR Program*

Marybeth reminded the committee that the Building Energy Roundtable meeting is coming up on June 23 at 10:30am.

#### *Work with the Planning Department*

Marybeth shared that Planning Director Don McCauley requested the CAC wait until after the Planning Board and Department retreat to work on the zoning by-law changes proposed for fall Special Town Meeting.

#### *Discussion on Laboratories in Wellesley*

Laboratories may be moving into Wellesley in Park 9 and other buildings in the commercial area. The CAC expressed concern about the high energy use and other impacts of laboratories. Members described the actions other towns have taken to attempt to regulate the impact of labs and discussed the potential pathways forward for Wellesley to mitigate GHG emissions from new development.

#### *Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)*

Laura noted that the CAC needs to consider making a recommendation to the Select Board to opt-in to the commercial PACE program. Mary Gard provided a short explanation of the PACE program and its benefits.

### **Summer Scope of Work and Plans**

Marybeth reminded the committee of projects planned for the summer including finding ways to increase collaboration across Town departments, filling in the spreadsheet tracking CAC advocacy activity, and state level advocacy for the climate bills and net zero stretch code.

### **Adjourn**

Martha Collins moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 A.M., seconded by Fred Bunger, *and the Committee voted to adjourn.*