

TOWN OF WELLESLEY



MASSACHUSETTS

CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE

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Sustainability Director: Marybeth Martello

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Sustainability Analyst: Janet Mosley

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Laura Olton, Chair

Susan Morris, Vice Chair

Catherine Mirick

Ellen Korpi

Martha Collins

Fred Bungler

Lise Olney

Climate Action Committee Meeting

September 14, 2022

Remote Zoom Meeting

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by Sue Morris. Present were Climate Action Committee (CAC) members: Sue Morris (CAC Chair), Laura Olton (CAC Vice Chair), Lise Olney, Martha Collins, Catherine Mirick, Ellen Korpi, and Fred Bungler. Also present were Marybeth Martello (Sustainability Director), Janet Mosley (Sustainability Analyst), Gail Sullivan (Advisory Liaison), Andrew Meyers, Lisa Wolf, Bonnie Roalson, and Mary Gard.

Citizen's Speak: None

Minutes: Laura Olton moved to approve the meeting minutes from July 29 as written, seconded by Martha Collins, *and the Committee voted to approve the July 29 meeting minutes.*

Stretch Energy Code and Specialized Opt-in Code

The committee discussed whether or not to support bringing the Specialized Opt-in Energy Code to Annual Town Meeting (ATM) 2023. Martha Collins moved that the CAC supports adoption of the Specialized Opt-in Energy Code. Lise Olney seconded the motion, *and the Committee voted to support the adoption of the Specialized Opt-in Code.*

Assistance to Planning regarding sustainability amendments to zoning bylaws

CAC members discussed their continued interest in working with the Planning Board and Planning Department to develop warrant articles for ATM 2023 that include sustainability amendments to zoning bylaws. Sue Morris will speak with Planning Board Chair Jim Roberti to see if the Planning Board wants to move forward with sustainability amendments at this time. Marybeth will reach out to Planning Department Director Don McCauley to schedule a meeting on this topic after Special Town Meeting in October. CAC members emphasized their willingness to support Planning if they decide to move forward with this effort.

Project Updates and Additional Business

- Lise Olney clarified that the building at 156 Weston Rd is part of the North 40 property. The idea to renovate it for affordable housing has not yet been discussed and approved by the Select Board.
- Ellen Korpi elaborated on the challenges Wellesley Municipal Light Plant (WMLP) is facing in getting bidders on municipal solar projects.
- Marybeth shared plans for an in-person Green Collaborative in November with the goal of reinvigorating the program, increasing membership and developing partners to share Climate Action Plan messaging, and highlighting work by WMLP and Natural Resources Commission as well as the new state and federal clean energy laws.
- Consultants have begun work with Town staff on the Hazard Mitigation Plan. A future Green Collaborative might be a good venue for community outreach and education on the Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- The Charles River Watershed Association will present to the Select Board on potential hazards and resilience efforts Wellesley may want to take to adapt in preparation for future extreme weather events.
- Marybeth attended the Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN) conference Sunday, September 11 through Tuesday, September 13. She felt it provided helpful connections and resources.
- Lisa Wolf (WMLP) and Marybeth are working on a grant application to MAPC for \$50,000 towards a pilot program to install battery storage in households dependent on electronic medical devices and refrigerated medications. This battery storage pilot would provide a number of households an alternative to fossil fuel powered generators while also allowing WMLP the opportunity to test out a demand response program using residential battery storage. Battery storage paired with solar and automated demand management will help to shave peak demand which helps to keep electricity rates low, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and provide distributed energy sources in emergency situations, among other benefits.
- The Facilities Management Department is proposing all electric HVAC systems to replace the existing gas powered systems that have reached the end of their useful life. The energy use intensity of the building would drop from 86 kBtu/sq. ft./year to 34 kBtu/sq. ft./year. FMD also proposed electric replacement systems for upcoming work at Sprague Elementary School and the Main Library.
- Lise Olney highlighted the HEET charrette on October 18 for municipalities interested in networked geothermal systems.
- Boston City Council voted on September 14 to apply to be one of the 10 municipalities to participate in the fossil fuel free new construction pilot.
- Marybeth will be developing a proposal to work with Babson students to help the CAC and Town to help with social media.

Adjourn

Martha Collins moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:15 p.m., seconded by Fred Bunger, *and the Committee voted to adjourn.*