



## SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

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Laura Olton, Chair

Fred Bungler, Vice Chair

Cindy Mahr

Ellen Korpi

Richard Lee

Susan Morris

Lise Olney

### SEC Monthly Meeting

Kingsley Board Room

Wellesley Municipal Light Plant

4 Municipal Way

Wellesley, MA 02481

October 3, 2019

### Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:33am by Laura Olton. Present were Sustainable Energy Committee (SEC) members: Laura Olton (SEC Chair), Fred Bungler (Vice Chair), Ellen Korpi, Lise Olney, Susan Morris, Cindy Mahr and Richard Lee. Also present were Don Newell (Wellesley Municipal Light Plant Director) Marybeth Martello (SEC Administrator), Janet Mosley (SEC Assistant), Pam Posey, Deed McCollum (Advisory Committee Liaison) and Leanne Cowley. Absent: Lise Olney

### **Citizen Speak**

Laurance Stuntz from the Recreation Commission and the Playing Fields Task Force presented plans for a light-emitting diode (LED) retrofit on the multipurpose playing fields and discussed the possible installation of new lights at the football field/track. Laurance provided a spreadsheet showing energy use and energy cost savings for the LEDs. This spreadsheet does not reflect cost savings from lower maintenance requirements. The LED lights reduce unwanted glare for neighbors. Ellen Korpi stated that the lower emissions from the LEDs should offset the emissions that accompany use of new football field/track lighting.

### **Minutes**

Laura Olton moved to approve the minutes from the SEC's September 6 meeting. Ellen Korpi seconded the motion *and the Committee voted unanimously to accept the September 6 meeting minutes.*

### **Welcome**

The Committee welcomed Deed McCollum as the new Advisory Liaison to the SEC.

## **Project Updates**

Ellen Korpi asked about installing an electric vehicle (EV) charging station at the Wellesley Municipal Light Plant. Don Newell, Wellesley Municipal Light Plant (WMLP) Director, will investigate this possibility and discuss it with Dave Cohen, Department of Public Works (DPW) Director. Richard Lee noted a grant program offering up to \$50,000 to support electric vehicle charging station equipment and installation.

The Committee discussed different scenarios for the ownership of rooftop solar on the Wellesley Free Library.

## **WMLP Update**

Ellen Korpi introduced Don Newell, recognizing his role in building Wellesley's electrical infrastructure. Don is known for being a great collaborator. Don requested that he start attending the SEC meetings.

Don has been with WMLP since 1999 except for time he spent in Ipswich.

Don discussed plans to replace transformers with new, greener transformers as part of a robust system, ready for beneficial electrification. The WMLP will install units that can accommodate unusual demand and new infrastructure demand. Forty percent of WMLP expenses are fixed based on summer and monthly peak rates. Don mentioned the inclining summer block rate for electricity that encourages energy conservation. Laura Olton noted the need for a public education campaign about summer electricity pricing. Of the 9,800 households, 1,100 of them participate in the Voluntary Renewable Energy Program. The WMLP is in a time of transition. Debra Healy is retiring. New positions will augment the WMLP's sustainability work. The WMLP is looking into programs that train employees to become electric vehicle experts/advisors. The WMLP will approach the Municipal Light Board in November with a new budget and funds for new programs that promote green decisions. Laura noted that the SEC is willing to help with these exciting efforts in anyway it can. Don encouraged the SEC to read the Energy New England analyses of the WMLP's portfolio, available on the WMLP's website.

## **F.U.T.U.R.E. (FUTURE) Act**

The Committee discussed the draft FUTURE Act resolution. The Board of Selectmen (BOS) have asked the SEC to speak to the FUTURE Act at the BOS October 15 meeting. Cindy Mahr suggested that in the second "whereas," add "parks and playing fields." The draft resolution focuses on aspects of the Act that directly affect our town: reduce gas leaks, give towns more voice, move to renewable energy.

Ellen Korpi made a motion to ask Laura to revise the draft resolution based on the Committee's discussion. Fred seconded the motion and the *Committee voted unanimously in favor of Laura revising the draft resolution per the SEC's input.*

## **SEC Annual Report**

Marybeth Martello asked SEC to provide comments on the draft Annual Report.

## **Advisory Presentation**

Deed McCollum will check with Todd Cook to inquire as to the length of the SEC's presentation to Advisory

## **Capital and Operating Budgets**

The SEC discussed plans for the Committee's capital budget. Fred made a motion to create a first capital budget in the sum of \$50,000 to conduct a CAP study for consulting work, with \$15,000 for an energy and occupant behavior study. Richard seconded, and the *Committee voted unanimously in favor of Marybeth developing the capital budget per the SEC's discussion.*

The SEC discussed plans to seek title changes and reclassifications for the Sustainable Energy Administrator and SEC Assistant positions.

Ellen made a motion, Sue seconded, and the *Committee voted unanimously in favor of seeking new titles and classifications for the Sustainable Energy Administrator and SEC Assistant positions.*

## **Town Branding**

The SEC provided Marybeth with feedback about draft Wellesley branding ideas. Marybeth will communicate this feedback to the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness team.

Ellen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:28 am, seconded by Fred Bungler, *and the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn.*

## **Exhibits Used**

September 6 Minutes

Spreadsheet for multipurpose playing field light energy use

Draft FUTURE Act Resolution