



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

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SEC Administrator: Marybeth Martello

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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

November 1, 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, and Deed McCollum (Advisory Committee Liaison).

Citizen Speak

None

Minutes

Laura Olton moved to approve the SEC's October 3 meeting minutes. Ellen Korpi seconded the motion *and the Committee voted unanimously to accept the October 3 meeting minutes.*

Project Updates

EVs: Ellen Korpi pointed out that the Project Update draft on Green Communities funding should refer to a "public" electric vehicle charging station rather than a "municipal" EV charging station.

Gas Leaks: Lise Olney explained that there has been a lot of work on identifying leaks of significant environmental impact (SEI). The Leak Extent Method (LEM) focuses on measuring leak volume. Unfortunately, National Grid, despite a 2017 verbal agreement to implement earlier, will not begin reporting LEM data until January 2020 and there will be a lag in that reporting. Wellesley has a list of its SEI leaks.

Meghan Jop has convened a Wellesley Gas Leaks Task Force. The Task Force discussed the possibility of carrying out a more in-depth gas leaks audit. Weston carried out such an audit using LEM. The Task Force agreed that the gas leaks should be included in Wellesley's greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory. There are formulas for calculating GHG emissions and other towns are including gas leaks in their GHG inventories. The SEC agreed to support the Gas Leaks Task Force.

PBC Meeting on Hunnewell: Following a PBC Meeting where the PBC asked Fred Bunger specific questions, Fred proposed that the SEC work with the School Building Committee and the Facilities Management Department (FMD) to draft a letter to the Permanent Building Committee (PBC) outlining Hunnewell School sustainability metrics. The PBC builds to code and sees one of their main responsibilities as holding down first costs. Consideration of net present value will reveal the operational and maintenance cost savings that comes with sustainable building practices. The SEC authorized Marybeth Martello and Fred Bunger to draft a letter to PBC. Ellen Korpi recommended that the letter require the PBC to examine net present value.

Transportation: The Committee discussed school transportation. School bus ridership has increased over the past five years and the district added three buses. Cindy Mahr noted that parent behavior drives school-related traffic and she does not see the need for a school transportation consultant at this time. The SEC agreed that Ellen Korpi should present past work of the SEC's Transportation Working Group to the Town's Mobility Working Group.

Alice Peisch will attend the SEC's December 6 meeting to discuss transportation. A bigger public meeting may follow in 2020. The SEC will invite Meghan Jop and Jack Morgan to attend the next SEC meeting.

Green Collaborative: The SEC agreed to ask Sustainable Wellesley to help promote the video from the October Green Collaborative on EVs, and the Town should distribute through Town News and Announcements. A press release with video link should go to media outlets. The next Collaborative meeting will focus on sustainable buildings.

HeatSmart: The SEC discussed the MassCEC/DOER HeatSmart RFP, modeled after the Solarize Program, but decided not to pursue the program for the November 15 deadline given timing, an already full suite of projects, and the requirement that the town partner with a single vendor.

WMLP Update

The Wellesley Municipal Light Plant (WMLP) is pursuing several sustainability and carbon reduction opportunities.

- A WMLP staff member will be dedicated to sustainability going forward.
- The WMLP met with FMD and Library Trustees to make plans to ensure that the new library roof is constructed as solar-ready. This group is also discussing what it would take to install solar. The incentives are changing and Massachusetts renewable energy certificates (RECs) go up and down. WMLP needs to know applicable solar incentives before committing to municipal solar installations. Also, even if a third party owns a solar installation, there are costs for the WMLP. The WMLP can partner with the Library and FMD to take every opportunity to install solar. One of the downsides to solar in the Northeast is that it is the highest cost renewable energy to build and to get. Offshore wind is less expensive than solar in Wellesley. Some properties may allow us to build larger-scale solar such as the North 40 and the Recycling and Disposal Facility.
- WMLP is waiting for the 900 Worcester Road team to respond with comments on the roof-top solar agreement.

- Sustainable Wellesley would like to work with the WMLP to promote the Voluntary Renewable Energy Program.
- Battery storage is in the MLP's 5 year capital plan.
- The WMLP is working with the SEC to find a location for a municipal electric vehicle charging station.
- The residential solar program is about half-way to capacity.
- There are at least 130 electric vehicle owners participating in the Bring Your Own Charger program.
- This year is a transition year for the WMLP with the departure of the WMLP Director, Assistant Director and Board Chair. The WMLP has flexibility with their budget. The WMLP expects to begin to re-build their cash reserves this year.

Laura Olton expressed gratitude for Don Newell's attendance at the Sustainable Energy Committee meetings.

Capital Budget

Ellen Korpi moved to approve the SEC's FY2021 Capital Budget Request. Richard seconded the motion *and the Committee voted unanimously to accept the FY2021 Capital Budget Request.*

Operating Budget

Laura summarized SEC work with Human Resources toward changing the titles and classifications for the Sustainable Energy Administrator and SEC Assistant. At the end of the day the Human Resources Board will decide on whether to approve the requested changes. The SEC voiced its unanimous support for the changes that the SEC is seeking for the two positions.

Ellen Korpi moved to approve the Draft FY2021 Operating Budget Request, Richard Lee seconded, *and the Committee voted unanimously to approve the Draft FY2021 Operating Budget Request and to delegate its finalization to Laura Olton, Fred Bunger and Marybeth Martello.*

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness

Lise Olney reported on a meeting she attended regarding geothermal microdistricts, described a program that is seeking sites for pilot microdistricts, and asked if Wellesley would want to propose a mixed-use pilot site. Lise will find out more information about the program and the attributes of ideal pilot sites.

IECC

The voting guide for the International Energy Conservation Council will indicate the top 50 or so items that have the most impact on energy use.

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

Exhibits Used

October 3 Minutes
 Draft FY2021 Capital Budget Request
 Draft FY2021 Operating Budget Request