



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

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SEC Project Updates

May 4, 2018

Green Communities

The Department of Energy Resources (DOER) agreed to fund the projects in Wellesley's Designation Grant proposal as submitted: an exterior light-emitting diode (LED) retrofit on the Department of Public Works (DPW) campus and an energy audit of the Town's water and wastewater systems. DOER sent Wellesley the contract materials and on April 24 Marybeth Martello met with Blythe Robinson, Joe McDonough, Allen Hebert and Doug Stewart to discuss contract parameters and project implementation. Marybeth submitted the signed contract materials and DOER set an effective date of April 30, on which Wellesley could begin to spend money on the above projects. The projects will be completed by December 2018 so that Wellesley will be eligible to submit a proposal in the 2019 Green Communities competitive grant round.

On April 28 Laura Olton, Ellen Korpi, Fred Bungler and Marybeth met to discuss a variety of items, including some excellent ideas for Green Communities that Fred initially shared in an email to the Sustainable Energy Committee (SEC). Fred's suggestions are listed below:

- Use MassEnergyInsight (MEI) data to develop an energy conservation dialogue with each department. First discuss MEI findings with Blythe Robinson, the Facilities Management Department, and, possibly, members of the Board of Selectmen. Then, show departments how they are doing versus recognized energy benchmarks. Urge them to identify a person in the department who is interested in taking on an energy improvement role. Maintain liaison.
- Use MEI data and the Capital Plan to identify energy improvement opportunities for inclusion in Green Communities grant proposals.
- In developing occupant behavior measures to reduce energy use, look to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council's (MAPC's) program for guidance. Axum Teferra is the contact at MAPC. Assess the value of the MAPC program by piloting it at a school or the library.

- In developing an anti-idling policy start with the historical data on fuel usage and have the fleet managers set targets for improvement. State Law is applicable on idling. Success at implementation is entirely a function of leadership and management.
- To conserve energy through fleet maintenance it's important to convince fleet managers that improving fleet maintenance will reduce energy use. Currently-used fleet maintenance programs may have energy improvement options that fleet managers could use.
- Since the Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy has been adopted as Town policy, implementation is a matter of keeping current the Green Communities vehicle inventory. Identify the probable vehicle replacements on the inventory. Charge the probable vehicle buyer with the responsibility of meeting the FEVP. The Selectmen or Advisory could be gatekeepers so that when a new vehicle gets budget approval, it must meet the FEVP.

Idle Reduction – Marybeth has been in contact with Megan Aki about a possible multi-town idle reduction pilot. On April 28, Marybeth emailed a memo to the SEC outlining this pilot and asking for feedback. If the SEC supports the pilot, Marybeth will reach out to the Department of Public Works and the Police Department, before the May 4 SEC meeting, to gauge their interest and obtain some vehicle details.

SEC Staffing Changes

Laura, Ellen, Katy Gibson and Marybeth reviewed an SEC Assistant job description from Cheryl Daebritz. Cheryl will post the description on Boston.com/Monster and Craig's List websites. Marybeth will distribute to SEC contacts.

Transportation Working Group

The Transportation Working Group is preparing for a meeting with MAPC on May 9. Eric Bourassa, Director of the Transportation Division, and Megan Aki, of the Clean Energy Division, at MAPC will attend. The topics Eric and Megan will cover include, but are not limited to those listed below.

- **School Transportation** - What are best practices and available programs to improve school bus participation, reduce single vehicle drop off and pick-ups, and get more “bang for the buck” on the school transportation programs.
- **New Technology** - How are towns using XL Hybrid technology on their vehicles? How might we partner with the MAPC on a pilot idle reduction program and what other technology should we explore?
- **Reduction of Private Vehicle Trips** - What best practices and programs such as Bike Share are recommended to reduce private vehicle trips?
- **Programs to Improve Vehicle Energy Efficiency** - Advice on executing our new FEVP and thoughts on potential ways to influence residents to purchase more energy efficiency vehicles.
- **MAPC programs to encourage electric vehicle charging stations**
- **Mass Transit** - What is being done to improve the performance of our Wellesley mass transit infrastructure and is there anything we as a Town can do to support these efforts?

Before the main meeting, at 11 am Katy, Marybeth and Judy Gertler will meet with Eric to discuss potential data mining of the vehicle information collected by the Registry and the Town for use in estimating the Town's carbon footprint. This meeting will be open to others who would like to listen in.

Following our meeting, at 1:30 pm, Ellen Gibbs and Eric will meet privately with the three local colleges and the Council on Aging to learn about collaborative models and begin exploring whether it is worth initiating some potential discussions among all or some of the participants.

Food Recovery

The visit to Wellesley Public Schools by Whitsons Corporation President, Paul Whitcomb, has been rescheduled for May 10. Ellen, Alison Cross, Food Services Director, Matt Delaney, and Marybeth are preparing presentations and visits to schools to observe food donation. Marybeth is working with parents to put final logistics in place for share table donations which will go to the Wellesley Food Pantry.

Hardy, Hunnewell, Upham (HHU)

The Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the Hunnewell School Feasibility Study is about to be issued. It includes the language recommended by the SEC. After receiving proposals from architects to the RFQ, the next crucial step is choosing a firm that has the expertise, experience and will to approach the project in the integrated manner we are advocating – one that maximizes the practical opportunities for sustainability. A special Town Meeting is scheduled for June 5 to seek approval of the funds for the Feasibility Study. The SEC will continue to closely monitor the project.

The Upham/Hardy project is just embarking on the next steps with the MSBA, as staff resource constraints at the MSBA had put the project on hold for several months.

Hunnewell Field Team Room and Restroom

Marybeth evaluated (with an eye toward sustainability) two proposals for the Hunnewell Team Room and Restrooms. On April 26 Marybeth attended a meeting at DPW with Michael D’Ortenzio, Dave Hickey, Dave Cohen, Andy Wrobel, Brandon Schmitt and a parent representative to rank proposals and open bids.

Home Energy Improvements for Seniors

Fred Bunger is holding Home Energy Saving Seminars at the Tolles-Parsons Center on May 3 and June 14 from 2:30-4:00pm. Fred made the presentation to seven attendees at the Village Church on April 29 and is in contact with four other houses of worship and clubs to schedule presentations.

The seminar aims to increase participation in the home energy assessments offered by the Wellesley Municipal Light Plan (WMLP) and National Grid. Seminar participants are encouraged to bring their home energy bills so they can compare their costs against a range of costs for very efficient to very inefficient homes. To make it easy to sign up for the home energy assessments, volunteers who have previously experienced audits and home energy improvements will be available as mentors to help seniors with the process.

Village Church Solar

On Sunday, April 22, Wellesley Village Church had an Earth Day celebration “unveiling” their solar panels. It was a crowd-filled sunny gathering with blessings from Pastor Sarah Butter about protecting our environment for future generations and words of inspiration and unity. SunBug has begun installation of this 66.5 kW rooftop solar project. They should have the 190 solar panels installed on the slate roof by the end of May, and the solar power will cover 45% of the Church's electricity requirements. SunBug and the Church have been working with WMLP and used the documents created for Temple Beth Elohim to structure the arrangement, with WMLP purchasing the solar power and selling it directly back to the Church. Dick Joyce and Laura Olton were invited to the celebration and were thanked for all their help in bringing the project to fruition.

Zero Net Energy Advisory Council Meeting

Marybeth attended a Zero Net Energy (ZNE) Advisory Council meeting at the Department of Energy Resources on April 10. She went, primarily to hear from the Town of Amherst about their proposed Zero Net Energy bylaw. Less than a year ago, Amherst Town Meeting adopted a zero net energy bylaw. But, many officials saw that bylaw as unworkable, so they developed a revised version that will go before their next Town Meeting on April 30. They have yet to build any buildings under the ZNE bylaw. But, Amherst has several big building projects in the pipeline: new DPW, fire headquarters, library, two elementary schools and a senior center. The road to this point involved nine public meetings, many internal meetings and input from outside experts including Ellen Watts, Marc Rosenbaum, and Darren Port.

Background: Amherst just voted to change their form of government from a town meeting model to a Council/Town Manager model. So, April 30 will be the start of the town's last town meeting. Amherst has a population of 40,000. The town is diverse with lots of affordable housing. The community passed polystyrene and bag bans and shows strong public support for green buildings.

Purpose behind the bylaw:

- Counter and prevent the effects of climate change;
- Build resilience;
- Work toward a carbon-neutral town;
- Promote energy efficiency standards and renewable energy; and
- Eliminate reliance on fossil fuels.

Key elements of bylaw

- Covers buildings which cost \$2M or more;
- Figure out energy budget BEFORE design;
- Design to meet ZNE requirements – emphasize importance of planning early in the process;
- Operate without fossil fuels except for emergency generators;
- Install renewable energy systems that will supply as much energy as building uses annually (but see caveat in definition of ZNE Capable Building, below); and
- Conceive, plan, design, engineer and commission collaboratively.

Zero Net Energy Capable Building – renewable energy (RE) systems can cost a premium of 10% of total project cost and on-site renewable systems can provide less than 100% of total energy needs. The remaining energy needs can come from off-site renewable energy sources.

Visit to See Sterling, MA Battery

On April 15, Ellen and Marybeth visited Sterling, MA to learn about their battery storage facility. While it provides a local source of power should the grid shut down, its primary role, at the moment, is shaving peak load. The Director uses the battery as one of many tools, including demand response, for matching supply with demand. They are purchasing as much as 35% of the power from renewable sources but they are selling all the SRECs. As a model project, there is a considerable learning curve, and as experience builds, they are gaining more benefits. The Director expects the cost of the equipment to gradually decrease as demand for it increases and he believes that over time, the battery technology will hold more capacity. So like smart meters, the challenge seems to be choosing the appropriate time to adopt this technology.

SEC Website

Marybeth added an “Upcoming Events” section to the website and working on additional features as she has time.

Wellesley Municipal Light Plant

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The Director distributed to the Board the **draft** Phase I report from Analysis Group on options to further reduce emissions from WMLP purchased power. The schedule for further actions is:

- May 2, the ad hoc advisory committee meets to review the Interim Report and provide a unified feedback to Analysis Group.
- May 14, Analysis Group meets with the ad hoc advisory committee to discuss their comments
- June 11, the Director distributes to the Board the **final** Phase 1 report
- September (date not set yet), **public forum** to discuss the report with Analysis Group

The draft report and this schedule is posted on the WMLP website. Interested members of the public are invited to provide comments to Director Dick Joyce.

A draft Phase II report is tentatively scheduled for distribution to the Board in mid-June.

LED Streetlights

Installation of LED streetlights on residential streets is largely complete. 2700 of 2848 total streetlights have been installed as of April 30. The remaining fixtures are largely along Route 9 and ramps. Installation should be complete by mid-May. About 40 households have requested to add a house-side shield to the fixture; this modification appears to be successful in addressing their concerns. Positive comments from residents have significantly exceeded negative feedback.

At the request of the NRC, 263 streetlights near environmentally sensitive areas are not scheduled for conversion. The Board asked the Director to send a letter to the NRC, noting the potential reduction in emissions and cost to the Town of converting these lights to LED and the loss of state funding to convert these fixtures at a future time, and inquiring whether the use of shields on these fixtures would address NRC concerns.

Residential Energy Audits

To date National Grid has received about 200 requests for home energy audits and has a substantial backlog to complete. The WMLP has received audit requests from 13 homes that are not heated with natural gas.

Other

Progress to date on two objectives for fiscal 2018 has been stalled. The Department of Energy Resources has not yet finalized a SMART program proposal for municipal light plants, to provide incentives for solar installations, so the WMLP cannot take action. And the WMLP is waiting for a proposal from Energy New England to support establishment of a pilot program to encourage off-peak charging of electric vehicles, after an earlier vendor did not deliver.