



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

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SEC Project Updates

January 4, 2019

SEC FY2020 Budget

On December 16 Marybeth Martello informed Executive Director, Blythe Robinson, that the SEC was removing from its draft Fiscal Year 2019 budget, the \$7,500 placer-holder for a consultant to improve transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions. The FY2019 budget is now less than the FY2018 budget. As noted under transportation (see below), SEC staff and Leanne Cowley are exploring less costly options for improving SEC data and methods.

Green Communities

Grant Round 11 - DPW Lighting Project and Energy Evaluation of Water and Wastewater Systems

The final report for 2018 Green Communities projects is due on February 1 to the Department of Energy Resources (DOER). Marybeth met with Allen Hebert of the Facilities Management Department (FMD) to discuss the narrative for the lighting retrofit on the Department of Public Works (DPW) campus. Marybeth is emailing with Neal Duffy of DOER to schedule a site inspection of this project.

Marybeth is working on the final report for the Green Communities-funded Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Energy Evaluation and is reaching out to DPW for their input.

Grant Round 12

The deadline for Round 12 grant applications will likely fall around late February/early March.

Marybeth is following up with DPW regarding: more detailed cost and energy use information for the Rosemary and Longfellow pump station upgrades, an update about possible lighting projects; and an update of the Town's vehicle inventory.

Marybeth is reviewing planned vehicle purchases for FY2019.

Sustainable Building Standards

Fred Bungler, Michael D'Ortenzio, Jr. and Marybeth met on December 12 to discuss next steps for Sustainable Building Standards (SBS).

On December 13, Laura Olton, Ellen Korpi, Tom Ulfelder, Fred Bungler and Marybeth attended a Permanent Building Committee (PBC) meeting to discuss Draft Sustainable Building Standards (SBS). The PBC asked questions about things like timing, costs, the applicability of SBS to renovations, etc. The PBC Chair also questioned whether the PBC's mission allows the Committee to engage in this kind of policy formation. The PBC will discuss this question at its December 10 meeting. Marybeth, Steve and Fred Bungler are setting up a meeting for shortly after December 10.

Board of Building Regulations and Standards

On December 11, Fred Bungler participated in the Massachusetts Climate Action Network's (MCAN's) webinar on the International Energy Conservation Code process. Marybeth also viewed this webinar. Voting deadlines appear below.

- Jan. 1 – Registration opens
- Mar. 29 – Deadline for registering governmental member and primary representative
- Sept. 23 – Deadline for governmental members to confirm roster
- Nov. 13 – Voting opens on IECC
- Nov. 27 – Final day to vote

Home Energy Savings Seminars

Fred conducted Home Energy Savings Seminar at the Council on Aging on December 19. Four people attended and they were all very motivated to obtain audits. The next Home Energy Savings Seminar will take place on Wednesday, February 6 at 1 pm in the Tolles Parsons Center. The Wellesley Municipal Light Plan (WMLP) will continue to sponsor home energy assessments for homes heated with oil or electric.

Hunnewell School

The School Building Committee, Board of Selectmen and School Committee met on December 20 to review the ten conceptual options that SMMA prepared for the new Hunnewell School. Some options save the iconic tree, some save the 1938 portion of the existing school and some save neither. The goal is to reduce options to three to four at the January 31 meeting.

Various goals must be weighed in comparing options, with the educational program being the primary one. The tightness of the site is a very limiting factor. Key issues are grouping grades into coherent “neighborhoods”, keeping the flow compact so that transferring to other spaces is not time consuming, not overpowering the library visually or by an active service entrance adjacent to the library parking lot, deciding whether the structure should be two or three stories and placing the public spaces towards the community (Washington Street) and the classrooms towards the quiet side (Fuller Brook).

It was reported that the Sustainability members of the design team were involved in creating the 10 options and that further information on the sustainability implications of the options will be developed when they are limited down to three or four. There will be further discussion of the options by the SBC on January 10 and a public meeting to get input, most likely on January 24.

The Swing Space report was not encouraging as no viable solution has yet been identified and it might be necessary to delay the Hunnewell construction until after the old Hardy/Upham is available. A request was made to reconsider the timeline of redistricting to explore the possibility of using a mothballed school as the primary swing space location, supplemented by modulars.

For the Hardy/Upham project, interviews will be held for Owner’s Project Manager on January 17.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

Janet Mosley has been gathering and uploading the last pieces of data to complete ICLEI records for municipal emissions through the end of FY18. Janet was able to use a new bulk data upload method get data on building energy use into the ICLEI ClearPath software.

Transportation

Transportation Working Group

As reported in December, the SEC’s Transportation Working Group has listening meetings on January 9 scheduled in both Needham and Lexington to learn more about their transportation programs. Transportation will be the focus of the Green Collaborative meeting on January 24 with Judith Crocker of the MA Department of Transportation as a speaker.

The Selectmen and Planning Department are in the midst of creating a Mobility Working Group as was recommended by the Unified Plan. Ellen Korpi will represent the SEC.

Ellen Korpi and Allison Burson attended the T4MA (non-profit coalition of business, planning and environmental groups devoted to improving transportation in MA) event where the Governor's Commission on the Future of Transportation in the Commonwealth presented its findings. (Provide link to report)

Much of what is recommended in the Commission's report must occur at the state, regional and federal level. However, the SEC's Transportation Working Group has identified a number of opportunities locally that seem worth further pursuit and these will be presented at the Collaborative meeting on Jan 24.

The Transportation Working Group will meet with Anne Gulati of Needham Public Schools on January 9, 2019.

Mobility Working Group

The Town's Mobility Working Group (MWG) will meet on January 28.

Data and Methods for Calculating Transportation-Related Emissions

Marybeth, Janet Mosley and Leanne Cowley are exploring publically-available transportation data from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) and from the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). They have also reached out to other towns, MAPC staff, and the MPO's Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS) for additional information.

Food Waste/Food Rescue/Recycling

- On January 3 Needham is launching a prepared food rescue pilot in its High School.
- Alison Cross had kick-off meetings with food services directors, sustainability folks and appropriate hunger relief organizations from Lexington, Natick, Newton and Arlington (who got word of the Food Waste and Food Rescue Workshop that Wellesley hosted). All of these towns are interested in developing a food rescue initiative.
- Alison will have a kick-off meeting with Newton-Wellesley Hospital in mid-January and is setting up kick-off meetings with Brookline and Weston.
- E. L. Harvey is no longer accepting milk and juice cartons in single-stream recycling. Marybeth has been communicating with school principals and parent volunteers about implementing this change to the recycling routine.

Electricity Emissions Factor

Janet, Marybeth, and Katy met December 12 to discuss progress and remaining issues in developing a WMLP-specific GHG emission factor. Janet is in the process of reaching out to ISO-NE to get answers to a few outstanding questions. Janet and Marybeth are preparing to meet with WMLP Director Dick Joyce in mid-January to review the preliminary findings and to present a summary of the project and final recommendations at the February SEC meeting.

Climate Action Plan

Janet's proposal for a University of Michigan Master's Project to develop a Climate Action Plan for Wellesley passed the faculty review stage and will now be considered for selection by student teams. Janet has contacted the school to see if she can participate in the Master's Project Client Fair on January 22 remotely (phone or Skype).

On January 3, Laura Olton and Marybeth will meet with Sustainable Wellesley to discuss a Wellesley Climate Action Plan.

Stove Party

Sustainable Wellesley is planning a Stove Party for January 13 at Jarvis on Route 9 at 5pm. The party will showcase an electrical induction cooking demonstrating as an example of a move toward electrification.

Wellesley Municipal Light Plant

The December 17 Light Board meeting focused primarily on the FY20 operating budget and a five-year financial forecast. Items of note:

- Katy Gibson announced her plans to resign from the Municipal Light Plant Board in early February.
- The FY20 budget includes \$45,000 to continue enhanced home energy audits, \$115,000 for solar incentives, with matching amount expected from DOER SMART program, and \$30,000 for other energy conservation measures.
- The FY20 financial forecast estimates a return to profitability after two years of operating losses.
- The five-year capital forecast includes \$3 million to install an advanced meter infrastructure in FY2023.