

TOWN OF WELLESLEY



MASSACHUSETTS

## SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

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Laura Olton, Chair

Ellen Korpi, Vice Chair

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### **SEC Project Updates**

January 30, 2019

#### **Green Communities**

The Green Communities project to replace existing exterior lights on the Department of Public Works (DPW) campus with light-emitting diode (LED) fixtures came in \$61,000 under budget. The Town needs to spend all of this money from its Designation Grant before entering a Green Communities competitive grant round. So, Marybeth Martello is finalizing reports for the DPW exterior lighting and water infrastructure energy evaluation projects and is also collecting project ideas for how to spend the remaining \$61,000. Before the Town can access those funds, Wellesley must submit project proposals to the Department of Energy Resources and receive approval.

Marybeth and Fred Bungler met with Dave Cohen, Doug Stewart, and Meghan Condon of DPW on January 10 to discuss Green Communities. DPW would like to use Green Communities funds to support an LED lighting retrofit project at the Town's water pump stations. DPW has hired Energy New England (ENE) to conduct a lighting study at the pump stations and propose new LED lighting fixtures. Marybeth has been in touch with ENE to share DOER grant requirements. DPW might also be interested in using Green Communities Designation Grant funds for electric vehicles and electric vehicle charging stations. Dave Cohen is exploring this possibility and is in touch with Marybeth. The energy evaluation of water infrastructure identified a number of energy conservation measures that the DPW intends to pursue. However, these projects are not amenable to the timing of the Green Communities grant cycle, so DPW is unlikely to seek Green Communities funds for these upgrades.

The Municipal Light Plant might be interested in Green Communities Designation Grant support for exterior lights not covered by the DOER streetlight grant. The Facilities Maintenance Department would like to seek Green Communities funding in 2020 for lighting projects. Fred reviewed the Town Capital Plan for potential Green Communities projects for 2020-2024. Meetings with departments are necessary to determine if projects will qualify for Green Communities support.

### **Massachusetts Climate Action Network (MCAN) Meeting on MLP Solar Rebate Program**

On January 26 Ellen Korpi attended an MCAN meeting where Kristin Dupre of Energy New England shared an update on the MLP Solar Rebate Program (similar to the SMART program for investor owned utilities).

- Residential customers who install solar will be able to receive a rebate of \$1.20 per watt/hour installed up to 25 kWh. Half will be a rebate from the state and half from the MLP. (The Wellesley MLP may tailor requirements as noted below).
- MLPs can cap the rebate as low as 10 kWh or \$1,200.
- While the MLPs are required to match the state rebate of \$.60, one for one, some may elect to increase their match to up to a \$1.
- Only \$2.3 million has been allocated to the program but MLPs have pledged \$3.3 million. Therefore, MLPs are unlikely to receive the full amount for which they applied, although there is some talk of adding another \$700,000 thousand to the pot.
- The MLPs will be required to retire the RECs associated with this program
- The Feb 1 program introduction has been delayed due to some legal hitch but will hopefully launch sometime in February.
- Energy New England has engaged a Marketing Company to assist the MLPs in its network and will have marketing materials available for the MLPs to use.

### **SEC/MLP Initiatives**

On January 22, Katy Gibson, Janet Mosley and Marybeth met with Dick Joyce Wellesley Municipal Light Plant (WMLP) Director, Debra Healey, Don Newell WMLP, David Allen and Terry Connolly to discuss WMLP/SEC collaborations. Discussion of WMLP/SEC collaborations addressed:

- 1. MLP Solar Rebate Program (see notes from MCAN meeting above)**
  - a. The WMLP is working with Energy New England and requested \$115,000 from the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) to provide solar incentives to the Town of Wellesley. DOER funds are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. The WMLP will provide \$115,000 or more in incentives to match the DOER funds.
  - b. The State requires that installations eligible for funding be no larger than 25kW. The Municipal Light Board (MLB) will vote on the size, type (e.g., residential or commercial), the matching policy, and the net metering rate for new solar owners and for individuals who purchase a home that already has solar.

- c. Owners will receive their rebate after the solar is installed and inspected. The rebate will be counted as income for tax purposes.
- d. Marketing should commence as soon as the MLB approves the general terms of the solar rebate program.
- e. The WMLP would welcome the SEC's help in marketing the solar rebate program and prefers that the Town refrain from partnering with specific solar companies. The group discussed Energy Sage as a potentially excellent resource.

## **2. Renewable Energy Credit (REC) Retirement**

- a. The MLB will discuss the handling of RECs and the Voluntary Renewable Energy Program at its meeting on Monday, January 28.

## **3. Energy Conservation**

- a. The home energy assessment program has been highly successful with 564 home energy audits completed at residences. Forty-two percent of residences at Wellesley Green participated in the audit program. Terry Connolly is seeking to develop partnerships with four multi-family residences this year. Barton Road could be a good candidate.

## **4. Electrification**

- a. The WMLP is supportive of electrification in Wellesley. Electrification is an important factor in the Analysis Group studies and SEC members will meet with the WMLP and Sagewell on January 28 to discuss electric vehicles program.

## **Electricity Emissions Factors**

Janet consulted with Katy and Marybeth in furthering analysis of electricity emissions factor options. Janet, Katy and Marybeth met with the WMLP on January 22 to discuss these options.

The WMLP prefers the ISO-NE emissions factor over eGRID largely because ISO-NE is more widely-used in WMLP-related organizations.

WMLP does not have plans to analyze their greenhouse gas emissions on a regular basis.

The WMLP did not express a strong preference for or against the use of a WMLP-specific emissions factor.

## **Sustainable Building Standards**

On January 8, Laura Olton and Marybeth met with Selectman Jack Morgan to discuss Sustainable Building Standards along with other SEC initiatives. They discussed plans for an SBS Working Group and process, and the Town Hall Annex.

On January 11, Fred Bunger and Marybeth met with Steve Gagosian of FMD to discuss Sustainable Building Standards and a process for shepherding SBS through Town government. On January 16, Marybeth discussed this process with Ellen Gibbs. Fred reviewed Center for High Performance Schools and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) requirements

and is collecting relevant cost information. Marybeth is revising the SBS document. Fred and Marybeth will update the summary page and develop a presentation to share with relevant Town boards, committees and departments. This presentation will include financial data on zero net energy and LEED buildings in our climate zone.

### **Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan**

On January 22, Janet and Marybeth had a Skype call with University of Michigan graduate students to discuss their possible engagement in development of Wellesley's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan. We are waiting to hear back from University of Michigan. Only 50% of available projects will be chosen by students.

### **Board of Building Regulations and Standards**

Marybeth spoke with Michael Grant about the International Energy Conservation Code voting process. Fred Bungler will replace Katy as a voting representative.

### **Home Energy Savings Seminars**

Fred updated the Home Energy Savings Seminar presentation. Bi-monthly presentations at the Council On Aging are planned for 2019. Fred will enhance marketing of these seminars with the aim of increasing attendance.

### **Hunnewell School**

The School Building Committee (SBC) has tentatively reduced the ten proposed concepts to four and will present them for community comment on Tuesday evening, 1/29. On Thursday 1/31 the SBC will vote to finalize the list. The SBC will receive information on the estimated energy implications of each option before choosing the final concept in late March.

### **Transportation Working Group**

At Wellesley's Green Collaborative meeting on 1/26, Ellen Korpi presented a summary of the recommendations of the Governor's Commission on the Future of Transportation. She also presented a summary of the preliminary findings of the SEC's Transportation Working Group. Judy Crocker of the MA Department of Transportation presented the Safe Routes to Schools program.

Next steps for the Working Group include:

1. The Ad Hoc Town Mobility Group will meet on Monday 1/28 and the SEC's Working Group will become a subset of this broader approach.
2. Three members of the School Committee, the Assistant Superintendent and the School Transportation Director attended the Collaborative presentations. Two School

Committee members then met with Judy Crocker to discuss the tools available from Safe Routes to Schools. These tools are important for redistricting.

3. Green Schools volunteers will assist the Director of Transportation in marketing school busing this spring.
4. Now that the Town has adopted a Complete Streets policy, the DPW will propose that the Mobility Working Group work to develop a Sidewalk Masterplan. This can support the walkability to our schools and under the Complete Streets state program, the DPW can apply for grants to help pay for upgrading the sidewalk system.
5. Leaders at the Council on Aging are in discussions about our findings and are exploring whether to make changes in their transportation program.
6. Selectman Ellen Gibbs and Ellen Korpi will meet with the MWRTA on 1/29 to pin down how Wellesley can take advantage of the #1 bus that travels down Route 9 between Framingham and the Woodland MBTA station.
7. A letter was submitted to Representative Alice Peisch recommending that a Working Group on School Transportation be established as a subset of the Governor's overall Transportation efforts, to examine ways to improve the basic structural challenges for school transportation that impede flexibility, cost effectiveness and efficiency.
8. The SEC needs to follow up on the State's Bay State Commutes program to see if it would be appropriate for our Town and school employees.

### **Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory**

Marybeth requested energy use data from Wellesley and Babson Colleges, National Grid, and the Metrowest Regional Transit Authority. Janet is completing ICLEI records for municipal emissions through the end of FY18.

### **Data and Methods for Calculating Transportation-Related Emissions**

Leanne Cowley has used information from the Mass Department of Transportation (MassDOT), Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS) and from 40B applications to update our approach to calculating vehicle miles traveled for Wellesley. Marybeth and Leanne are meeting on January 28 to discuss and Marybeth will be talking with Janet and Katy about the appropriate timing of a transportation update. Leanne and Janet also met with a CTPS staff member in early January.