



## SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

TOWN HALL • 525 WASHINGTON STREET • WELLESLEY, MA 02482-5992

SEC Administrator: Marybeth Martello

[SEC@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:SEC@wellesleyma.gov)

SEC Assistant: Janet Mosley

[jmosley@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:jmosley@wellesleyma.gov)

Laura Olton, Chair

Fred Bunger

Michael D'Ortenzio, Jr.

Ellen Korpi

Richard Lee

Susan Morris

Thomas Ulfelder

### SEC Project Updates

May 24, 2019

#### **SEC Appointments**

The Board of Selectmen appointed Sue Morris and Richard Lee to the Sustainable Energy Committee.

#### **Green Communities**

##### ***Funding***

The Department of Energy Resources (DOER) approved \$10,000 in Green Communities Designation Grant funding to support a Wellesley Municipal Light Plant (WMLP) light-emitting diode (LED) Flood Light Project (\$21,345) and sustainability work detailed in the Town Hall Annex Feasibility Study.

DOER posed questions about the narrative for the Department of Public Works (DPW) LED retrofit project at the Town's Water Treatment Plants (\$23,223). DPW provided new documentation to Marybeth on May 22. Marybeth will review and submit this documentation to DOER on May 24. If DOER approves this DPW project, the Town will have approximately \$7,000 left in Green Communities grant funds to spend by December 2019.

DPW is exploring the possible installation of solar on its salt shed. A municipal EV charging station could also be a Green Communities project for 2019.

##### ***Annual Report***

Due in early December 2019. Janet and Marybeth are reviewing requirements and developing a schedule for completion, including outreach to relevant departments.

## **Green Collaborative**

On May 9, the Green Collaborative hosted three compelling speakers. David Farnsworth of the Regulatory Assistance Project presented on beneficial electrification. Jeff Wechsler Municipal Light Board Chair discussed ways in which the WMLP has prepared the town for beneficial electrification. Board of Selectmen member, Lise Olney, provided an update on gas leaks.

## **Sustainable Buildings**

### ***Sustainable Building Guidelines***

Marybeth Martello and Fred Bunger made Sustainable Building Guidelines (SBG) presentations to Dick Joyce (WMLP) 4/22, Michael Grant (Building Department) 4/24, Joe McDonough (FMD) 4/25, David Cohen (DPW) and DPW program managers 4/30, Jamie Jurgenson and Marla Robinson (Library), 5/2, Matt Chin (Recreation), Lenny Izzo and staff (Health), Brandon Schmitt (NRC), Julie Meyer (Wetlands), Lenore Mahoney (ZBA), Victor Panak (Planning) on May 7, and Natural Resources Commission (5/21).

Planned presentations:

May 28 – Board of Public Works

May 30 – Wetlands Committee

June 3 – Planning Board

June 10 – Recreation and Library Trustees

July 11 – School administration and FMD

July – WMLP

We are inviting ZBA to attend meetings with other boards.

BOS and Advisory will happen after we visit all other boards

Marybeth also sent SBG to Town Counsel for review and is awaiting a response.

### ***Hunnewell School Feasibility Study***

Fred Bunger attended two School Building Committee (SBC) meetings and one public forum. SBC has selected the NEW option by a vote of 11 to 1. The sustainability goal energy use intensity (EUI) of 30 was met. An all-electric school using air source heat pumps gives a design EUI of 26.4. A solar array of 73,500 square feet is needed to achieve zero net energy. The NEW roof area is only 30,000 square feet. The idea of additional solar on a parking deck on the Cameron St. lot will not proceed as there is reluctance to proceed without a thorough parking study and inclusion in long-term capital planning. Without another source of solar, the school will not be able to achieve net zero energy. A sustainability presentation by Bill Mclay showed that the capital cost to meet the 26.4 EUI was \$290,000 higher and 30 year operating costs will be \$200,000 a year higher than simply building to code with natural gas heat. It was noted that the \$490,000 premium is 0.87% of the \$56.4 million school project cost.

### ***Home Energy Saving***

Fred held a Home Energy Seminar on May 22. Interest is waning. We need to consider other ways of energizing homeowners to take action to reduce energy use. Fred is working with Sue Morris to engage local realtors in understanding energy efficiency of homes. Perhaps we should look at HELIX system.

### ***New Building Institute (nbi) Webinar on Zero Energy Buildings***

nbi is tracking 580 Zero Net Energy buildings including 191 schools. On-line data access was discussed.

### ***Building Codes***

Fred Bunger and Laura Olton drafted a letter to Massachusetts Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS) on behalf of the SEC to encourage the adoption of a Zero Net Energy-ready Stretch Code. Fred participated in the Massachusetts Climate Action Network (MCAN) conference call with other municipalities who are commenting on the stretch code and participating in International Energy Code Council voting.

### **Solar and EV Charging**

The EV Working Group met on May 15 to discuss the Bring Your Own Charger Program and finalize public relations materials for this program.

On May 23, Laura Olton and Marybeth Martello met with WMLP leadership to discuss logistics and finances related to private and municipal solar arrays and electrical vehicle (EV) charging stations

### **Residential Solar Rebate Program**

On May 16 Laura Olton and Marybeth Martello met with WMLP staff members to discuss the WMLP's residential solar rebate program. The SEC website contains links to this program.

### **Morses Pond Study**

Marybeth spoke with Matt Chin about the Morses Pond Feasibility Study and opportunities to make sustainable choices. Recreation recently interviewed candidates and selected a team with impressive experience with sustainable design.

### **Gas Leaks**

Laura attended the Multi-Town Gas Leaks Initiative meeting on Wednesday, May 22, at Arlington Town Hall (along with Lise Olney, Dave Cohen and Brandon Schmitt from Wellesley). Municipal officials from close to 20 towns, Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), Mothers Out Front, HEET, and the Gas Leaks Allies were in attendance. The meeting provided an update to addressing National Grid's gas leaks, including that National Grid just agreed to a meeting with several municipal officials to discuss goals and the solutions

outlined in the letter sent by the numerous cities and towns (including Wellesley) to National Grid in January. There also was a presentation on the proposed FUTURE Act (H.2849/S.1940) (An Act For a Utility Transition to Using Renewable Energy), which is a comprehensive piece of legislation addressing transitioning from natural gas to renewable thermal district energy systems, DPU reform, empowerment of municipalities in DPU proceedings, and much more. We also heard about the DPU regulations on environmentally significant gas leaks that was issued in March, and how National Grid is responding to it.