



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

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

SEC Administrator: Marybeth Martello

SEC@wellesleyma.gov

SEC Assistant: Janet Mosley

jmosley@wellesleyma.gov

Laura Olton, Chair

Fred Bunger

Cindy Mahr

Ellen Korpi

Richard Lee

Susan Morris

Thomas Ulfelder

SEC Project Updates

June 20, 2019

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.

Marybeth finalized and submitted the Department of Public Works' (DPW) grant application narrative to DOER and DOER approved this LED retrofit project at the Town's Water Treatment Plants (\$23,223). The Town now has approximately \$7,000 – \$10,000 left in Green Communities grant funds to spend by December 2019.

DPW has decided against the installation of solar panels on its salt shed, but is looking toward future solar installations on its campus.

Marybeth Martello and the Town's Executive Director, Meghan Jop, discussed applying for Green Communities funds for an electric vehicle (EV) charging station on Washington Street. Marybeth is reviewing DOER guidance, has reached out to the Wellesley Municipal Light Plant (WMLP) and hopes to meet with them this week to discuss their views on this potential project.

Annual Report

Wellesley's Annual Green Communities Report is due in early December 2019. Janet is reviewing energy use data. She contacted the WMLP with questions regarding electricity data. Janet also worked with Fred Bunger to generate community Energy Use Intensity (EUI) factors for 2019 and is working to identify specific questions for the Facilities Management Department

(FMD)/Allen Hebert to ensure that the data in MassEnergyInsight (MEI) is as accurate as possible for the Green Communities Annual Report coming up in late fall.

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), Board of Public Works (5/28), Planning Board (6/3), Recreation Commission (6/10), School Administration and Facilities Management Department (6/11). All boards seem to be sustainability advocates and willing to provide letters of support for SBG in advance of the next Annual Town Meeting.

A presentation to the Library trustees will occur in August or September, with a summer presentation to WMLP as well.

Presentations to Board of Selectmen and Advisory will take place at the end of the road show.

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

Building Codes

Fred and Laura drafted a letter from the SEC to the Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS). Marybeth finalized and sent copies of the letter to Governor Baker and key legislators. The letter expresses SEC support for improving the Stretch Code to include net zero ready requirements. Received word that BBRS has referred development of the Stretch Code to their energy advisory committee (which is chaired by Ian Finlayson from DOER). It sounds like there is a possibility that the Stretch Code could be developed as soon as in the next 6-12 months. The Energy Advisory Committee is also going to seek input from other technical groups like Northeast Energy Efficiency (NEEP) in developing the code.

School Buildings

Marybeth drafted a letter from the SEC to the School Building Committee (SBC) thanking them for their commitment to sustainability throughout the Hunnewell Feasibility Study process. Marybeth and Fred attended the SBC meeting on June 6 to deliver the letter in person. The New Hunnewell option has been chosen. Swing space options include "internal" (using existing capacity at the six other elementary schools), St Paul's School, and "late Hunnewell" (defer Hunnewell construction until after a new Hardy/Upham School is completed and use the empty Hardy or Upham as swing space. "Late Hunnewell" would push out a new Hunnewell school from 2023 to 2026.)

Building Energy Improvement

Fred and Sue Morris met with a Wellesley realtor to discuss how to encourage home sellers and buyers to be more aware of home energy usage. Fred offered to provide information on home energy benchmarking.

Green House Gas Inventory

Janet and Marybeth met with Scott Bender on June 5th to learn how he has used data from the Massachusetts Vehicle Census (MAVC) to analyze vehicle use in Wellesley. Scott believes that we may be able to use the MAVC data for the transportation portion of the community greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory without help from Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC). Scott offered his help if the Sustainable Energy Committee (SEC) chooses to pursue this option.

3R Working Group

The 3R Working Group met on June 12. The group discussed membership, logistics, plans for a Sustainable Wellesley initiative to encourage sustainable materials management by commercial food establishments, and waste management (including organic) at other commercial and municipal locations.

Linden Square Waste Management

On June 12, Ellen Korpi, Jeff Azano Brown and Marybeth Martello met with Linden Square Management to learn about their waste management practices and discuss mutually beneficial collaborations. Linden Square Management was welcoming and interested in partnering with us.

We learned that, Waste Management provides solid waste services to most establishments (other than Roche Bros). Sweet Greens has its own organic waste collection service. This vendor may be able to pick up organic waste at other establishments as well. A concentration of customers for this vendor could reduce costs for all.

Linden Square Management will work with us to convene a brainstorming meeting with their food service tenants to discuss the potential of additional food waste diversion opportunities. We hope that Sweet Greens will join this meeting since they already have a vendor in place.

Linden Square Management will also introduce us to someone in Roche Bros management so we can re-initiate conversations with them on 3R issues. In the short run, we are interested in exploring ways to increase customer adoption of re-usable bags which would benefit the environment and save Roche Bros money.

The 3R Working Group will increase community engagement by providing introductions that Linden requests and by publicizing any 3R initiatives that Linden and/or their tenants adopt.

Jeff is following up to see if it's possible to upgrade the cardboard collection program at Linden Square.

Presenting Data and Information

Janet attended the Edward Tufte One Day Course on "Presenting Data and Information" on June 4th. This course covered many aspects of how best to communicate complex ideas and data to an audience. One of the most useful insights was to consider restructuring meetings that require a lot of information sharing to include a "study hall" at the beginning to allow participants to focus and digest information relevant to the meeting before moving on to discussion. Janet also received copies of Edward Tufte's four books that anyone may borrow if interested.

SEC Budget

Marybeth had several conversations with the Finance Department as she and Janet made final purchases for the year and planned the retreat.