



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

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SEC Project Updates

September 6, 2019

Green Communities

Designation Grant Projects

The Department of Public Works (DPW) hired Environmental Services, Inc. (ESI) to carry out a light-emitting diode retrofit at Wellesley's Water Treatment Plants (WTPs). ESI quoted \$41,983 for this project. The Green Communities Designation Grant is providing \$23,223, and possibly more. DPW is holding a kick-off meeting with ESI on September 5.

Marybeth Martello and Lt. Scott Showstead of the Wellesley Police Department are working with Kevin Bracken of the Wellesley Municipal Light Plant (WMLP) to explore the purchase of one dual-port electric vehicle (EV) charging station with Green Communities Designation Grant funds. Richard Lee gathered helpful background information on EV chargers and vendors. On July 10, Marybeth presented the EV charging station idea to the Traffic and Parking Committee. They approved the idea and suggested Waban Parking Lot as a good location. Marybeth spoke with charging station companies and with communities who have recently installed stations. Marybeth, Scott and Kevin are obtaining quotes from three companies on the State-approved list of contractors: Voltrek, Verdek and EVSE. Verdek (quote in) and Voltrek (quote expected soon) made site visits. Marybeth and Scott have had several phone conversations with EVSE and expect a site visit soon. All three companies are confident that they can install a station before December.

We currently have \$25,627.61 in un-allocated Designation Grant funds. We can apply these funds to the remainder of the DPW WTP lighting project, to the charging station and possibly to the un-funded portion of the water systems energy audit. Green Communities awards up to \$10,000 for charging station equipment and installation (maximum of two chargers).

2020 Competitive Grant Round

Several departments have expressed an interest in proposing Green Communities projects in 2020. In past years, the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) has capped grants per community at \$250,000. Below is a preliminary list of projects.

- \$100,000 - Interior LED retrofit at Wellesley High School (Facilities Management Department (FMD))
- \$383,000 - Exterior LED retrofit at several playing fields (Natural Resources Commission (NRC)/Recreation Department)
- \$? Awaiting cost estimate - Exterior LED retrofit at one or more to-be-determined parking lots (Traffic and Parking)
- \$? Awaiting confirmation - Possible EV/charger/hybrid vehicle purchase (DPW)

Green Communities Annual Report

Wellesley's Annual Green Communities Report is due in early December 2019. In preparing for this report, Janet carefully reviewed energy use data in MassEnergyInsight. She contacted the WMLP with questions regarding electricity data and met with FMD and Marybeth to discuss building energy use data. Janet also reached out to the Building and Planning Departments to ask about any GC-relevant changes in the building code and zoning bylaws.

Janet developed a Gantt chart showing Green Communities Annual Report tasks with target completion dates (please see attached).

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program

The State awarded the Town of Wellesley a [Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Planning Grant](#) for \$25,000. The NRC has welcomed the SEC and Planning Department into the MVP process. Marybeth and Janet helped NRC and Planning to short list, interview and select the consultant who will prepare, help to publicize and run an MVP workshop and listening session. Kim Lundgren Associates (KLA) is the winning firm. They have worked with Concord, Dedham and several other Massachusetts towns and offer innovative approaches to public and municipal outreach and engagement. They also regularly provide greenhouse gas inventory and emissions modeling services. The NRC and consultant have agreed that it makes sense to include Wellesley's Climate Action Plan development as part of the MVP process.

Sustainable Building Projects

Town Counsel provided feedback on the Sustainable Building Guidelines (SBG) document. Marybeth incorporated the feedback and posted the new version at this [link](#)

Marybeth is getting in touch with a few remaining boards to schedule SBG presentations.

Fred Bunger has been keeping up with sustainable building webinars.

Town Hall Annex

According to FMD, the Town Hall Annex is on track to be zero net energy or zero net energy ready.

Hardy Hunnewell Upham

Fred attended School Building Committee (SBC) meetings over the summer. Fred's notes from the August 29 SBC meeting are below.

- Scheduled seven separate parent meetings, one for each elementary school for 9/7 through 9/24 to review project and swing space plans.
- Discussed two swing space options: "internal" with schedule for December 2022 Hunnewell completion and "late" with several options all meaning a delay of Hunnewell by three years to wait for Hardy/Upham completion.
- Discussed at length the several "late" options. All have expenses, complexities and compromises. SBC members expressed concern that they were spending too much time discussing "late" options when the best option is the "internal" option. Members noted that earlier opposition to "internal" seems to have abated as the concerns about bussing, etc. have been addressed. There was no vote, but the sentiment seems to be strongly in support of the "internal" swing space option. It was noted that the success of the "internal" option is entirely in the hands of the school administration.
- School Committee will vote on selected swing space option at October 1 meeting.

Wellesley Office Park

On August 8 Marybeth, Fred Bunger and Laura Olton met with the Wellesley Office Park (WOP) development team, the Wellesley Municipal Light Plant (WMLP) and the Natural Resources Commission (NRC). While WOP is including some sustainable features, their current plan does not appear to reflect the kind of holistic, integrated approach to sustainable design that we have seen with the Hunnewell project. WOP is including/considering the following features:

- Complete Streets
- Shared parking
- Below grade chambers for flood storage
- Pervious pavers
- Energy efficient appliances
- Rain gardens
- LED lighting
- Bike storage
- High albedo roofing
- Glazing on North/South exposure windows

- Low, no-VOC materials
- Enhanced air sealing
- Grade 1 insulation
- Occupancy sensors
- Residents will pay for the utilities they use

However, we did not get the impression that the team was planning for some things that the SEC really cares about (e.g., very low EUI, electrification, zero net energy, etc.). WOP had not considered air source heat pumps and don't presently see solar as a viable option. We explained where we are at as a community and municipality on the topic of sustainable buildings and suggested they explore all the above. Laura and Marybeth had a follow-up phone call with Tom. Tom is on the same page and followed up with the WOP team.

Wellesley Free Library

Marybeth will present SBG to the Library Trustees on September 9. The Library is replacing their roof in the next two years and Marybeth plans to raise the topic of roof-top solar during her presentation. Marybeth has also reached out to Don Newell to request a meeting this week to discuss the WMLP's perspective on library roof-top solar.

Metropolitan Area Planning Council Case Study

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) is writing a case study about Wellesley's Draft Sustainable Building Guidelines. MAPC staff interviewed Marybeth over the summer.

Green House Gas Inventory

Janet examined excise tax data and other data potentially helpful in improving our transportation-related emissions estimates.

Climate Action Plan

Over the summer, Richard Lee, with contributions from Janet, carried out an extensive analysis of how electric vehicle ownership could help Wellesley achieve an 80% reduction in transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions below 2007 levels. Fred Bunger gathered data and identified ways to map out a similar reduction in building-related emissions. Leanne Cowley researched climate action plans in other Massachusetts towns, as well as CAP funding. Several towns have used MVP grants to fund their CAPs. The CAP Steering Committee is planning for the FY21 budget process and for Annual Town Meeting.

Recycling and Food Recovery

Marybeth submitted data and goals for Bates Elementary School's participation in the Environmental Protection Agency's Food Recovery Challenge (FRC) and WasteWise programs.

Marybeth also submitted an annual report and a set of goals to maintain the Town of Wellesley's status as an FRC endorser.

Marybeth met with Sue Morris to discuss school recycling and food recovery programs. Sue agreed to co-chair these programs with Green Schools member, Nancy Braun. As part of their work, Sue and Nancy are leading an effort to bring recycling and food recovery to the Middle School cafeteria. Sue, Nancy, Marybeth, Alison Cross, Michele Foster and Matt Delaney met over the summer to discuss the Middle School initiative.

Shave the Peak Alerts

Marybeth worked with Stephanie Hawkinson to send "Shave the Peak" alerts through Wellesley News and Announcements and to add information on shaving the peak to the Town's [website](#).