



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

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SEC Project Updates

November 1, 2019

Green Communities

Designation Grant Projects

Marybeth Martello, Don Newell (Wellesley Municipal Light Plant (WMLP) Director), Scott Showstead (Police Department) and Kevin Bracken (WMLP) hosted a Verdek, Inc. sub-contractor for site visits to the WMLP and its parking lot. Marybeth and Scott also met with the sub-contractor at the Waban Street Parking Lot. They are awaiting what will be a final of four quotes before deciding on whether and where to install a public electric vehicle (EV) charging station with Green Communities grant funds.

We currently have \$25,627.61 in un-allocated Designation Grant funds. We can apply these funds to the remainder of the Department of Public Works (DPW) Water Treatment Plant (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).

Marybeth met with the Finance Department with the aim of developing an easier, more transparent process for submitting invoices to the Green Communities Program and receiving reimbursement for projects. Marybeth will follow up with Finance on this initiative next week.

2020 Competitive Grant Round

In past years, the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) has capped competitive round grant requests at \$250,000 per community. Marybeth is working with the Facilities Management

Department (FMD), Playing Fields Task Force and Traffic and Parking to develop documentation for 2020 Green Communities grant applications to fund the following projects:

- \$100,000 - Interior light-emitting diode (LED) retrofit at Wellesley High School (proposed by FMD)
- \$320,000 - Exterior LED retrofit at several playing fields (High School Multi-purpose, Tennis Courts and Reidy Field - proposed by Playing Field Task Force)
- \$20,000 Exterior LED retrofit at six municipal parking lots (Cameron, Waban, Weston, Hills, Eaton Court, Farms – proposed by Traffic and Parking)

Green Communities Annual Report

Wellesley's Annual Green Communities Report is due on December 4. Janet Mosley is continuing to coordinate the reporting process and reach out to departments for energy data and other updates. Janet met with Allen Hebert (FMD) to resolve questions regarding historical, monthly electricity data. Janet started to upload the corrected data into MassEnergyInsight software.

Chris Cusack of the Department of Public Works (DPW) provided Marybeth and Janet with an updated municipal vehicle inventory.

Gas Leaks

On October 15, Lise Olney (Board of Selectmen/SEC), Dave Hickey (DPW), Marybeth Martello, and Brandon Schmitt (Natural Resources Director) attended a Gas Leaks Forum in Arlington organized by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), the Multi-town Gas Leaks Initiative and Mothers Out Front. Several executives and managers from National Grid were in attendance but provided little in the way of answers and plans for gas leak repairs.

The SEC submitted a memo and draft FUTURE Act Resolution to the Board of Selectmen (BOS). On October 21, Laura and Marybeth attended the BOS meeting to present the Resolution. The BOS adopted the Resolution as drafted by the SEC.

Advisory Presentation and Sustainable Building Guidelines

On October 23 Laura Olton, Fred Bunger and Marybeth presented an overview of the Sustainable Energy Committee's work to the Advisory Committee. The presentation (which included a discussion of Sustainable Building Guidelines) was enthusiastically received and prompted many excellent questions from the audience.

Proposed SEC Staffing Changes

Pamela Posey carried out extensive research into sustainability staffing in other Massachusetts communities. She collected valuable information on staff responsibilities, qualifications, titles, compensation, hours/week, etc. from the web, documentation, and personal communication

with municipal employees. Pam's research informed and will continue to inform the SEC's efforts to revise current SEC staff positions.

Laura and Marybeth prepared a memo to the Human Resources Department (HR) explaining current SEC staff responsibilities and expected changes in staffing needs for FY21. On October 29, Laura and Marybeth met with Scott Szczebak (HR Director) to discuss a process for seeking changes in staff titles and classifications. On October 29, Marybeth also met briefly with Cheryl Daebritz to discuss revisions to position descriptions.

Hunnewell School

Fred attended a Permanent Building Committee (PBC) meeting on October 24. At Citizen Speak, Fred declared SEC support of all-electric, zero net energy (ZNE)-ready construction and sustainability goals established for the Hunnewell School project by the School Building Committee (SBC). Fred also stated that the sustainability elements of the project went beyond current Stretch Building Code requirements. During the meeting Fred was called to the microphone during a question about metrics for the project. Fred explained that the SEC supported the EUI estimate of 26.4 kBTU/sq.ft./yr. meeting the target of minimum EUI of 30. There was much discussion of what would be written in the Special Town Meeting (STM) article and what would be in the presentation. The SBC and SEC were urged to be in alignment. Fred offered SEC help to review the SBC's texts and presentation for Special Town Meeting.

(Note from Fred: This discussion at the PBC emphasizes that the SBG must be explicit in the requirements for ZNE-ready, the EUI minimums and the other sustainability measures. The SEC should discuss the transition of guidelines to standards to give PBC solid metrics)

Police Station

The Police Department is interested in reducing the energy use intensity of the Police Station. Fred identified a free energy audit opportunity through MassSave. And Fred investigated cost estimates for an American Society of Heating Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE Level 2) audit (\$4100-\$5000) which includes cost estimates for energy use reduction projects. Fred and Marybeth will coordinate audits with the Police, FMD and SEC. Fred is researching programs for occupant behavior education and training on energy conservation.

Home Energy Seminars

On October 18, Fred presented a home energy seminar with an introduction to solar at the Tolles-Parsons Center. Three people attended. No further seminars are planned. Future outreach to homeowners will be included in Climate Action Plan activities.

Building Code

Building Code Updates from Fred include:

- Fred participated in an October 16 Massachusetts Climate Action Network conference call on buildings codes.

- International Code Council (ICC) public comment period is underway, with recommendations due by the first week in November.
- Preliminary voting guide from EECC (Energy Efficiency Codes Coalition) is available: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6R-K-UWXhKoekxKTTNfQ2E3N3hmbWZucHdzZ3FRR3NkSkNj/view?usp=sharing>
- A final guide will be available after the close of the ICC public hearing.
- Voting training available on the New Buildings Institute (NBI) webinar on November 6 at 12:30PM
- Voting window to be open 11/13 to 11/27. Code voting sessions to be set up by leaders.
- Fred is awaiting complete list of all Wellesley ICC code voters to pass on information on upcoming training and code voting recommendations.
- Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS) recast Stretch Code committee which may delay or change Stretch Code progress.

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program

Marybeth met with the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) team and KLA Associates on several occasions to plan the core team meeting and workshops and to develop Wellesley branding and a logo.

At a core team meeting on October 22, KLA provided an overview of the MVP process and asked department heads for input on maps to be used at the MVP workshops on November 4 and 7.

Climate Action Plan

Fred is continuing to seek 2007 and 2018 data on building energy/GHG measures to establish baseline and “business as usual” outcomes.

Transportation

The Mobility Working Group met on October 21 where each of the constituencies introduced themselves and discussed their priorities and goals for the group. Marybeth Martello and Richard Lee attended on behalf of SEC, along with representatives from Selectmen, Town Administration, Planning, Police/Traffic, Schools, and the Natural Resources Commission. Absent were DPW representatives and residents with transportation experience. The group plans to meet monthly.

NEEP

On October 4, Marybeth met with Joe McDonough and a representative of the Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP). The SEC should reach out to NEEP explore potential partnership.

Green Collaborative

A Green Collaborative meeting focused on electric vehicles took place on October 24. Speakers included Richard Lee, Green Consumer Alliance, XL Hybrid, Lion Electric and Kevin Kennedy (SEC). EV owners were on hand to show off their vehicles and answer questions. Attendance was excellent with many department heads and community leaders in the audience.

3R Working Group

The 3R Working Group met on October 11. Projects discussed included:

- The group is drafting a letter to encourage Linden Square to recycle and divert food waste.
- The Recycling and Disposal Facility (RDF) is now picking up food waste from the Dover, MA transfer station.
- The NRC is promoting a “Leave the Leaves” campaign.
- The group will promote Catalogue Choice to reduce junk mail waste.
- A Middle School, post-consumer cafeteria food waste diversion pilot is underway.

Recycling and Food Recovery

Wellesley Middle School is taking steps toward a post-consumer, cafeteria-based food waste diversion project. Sue Morris is part of this effort.

On October 23, Marybeth met with Natick’s Sustainability and Recycling Coordinators to share Wellesley’s experiences with food waste audits and food waste diversion and help Natick with programs they are planning.