



## SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

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

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Laura Olton, Chair

Fred Bunger, Vice Chair

Cindy Mahr

Ellen Korpi

Richard Lee

Susan Morris

Lise Olney

### DRAFT

### SEC Project Updates

March 6, 2020

#### Green Communities

##### *Designation Grant Projects*

On February 21, Janet Mosley and Marybeth Martello completed the response to DOER's questions regarding Wellesley's FY19 Green Communities Annual Report.

Lt. Scott Showstead is using information collected from other towns by Leanne Cowley to develop a draft electric vehicle (EV) charging station policy.

##### *2020 Competitive Grant Round*

Preparation for the Green Communities 2020 Grant Application, due to Board of Selectmen (BOS) on March 19 and to Department of Energy Resources (DOER) on March 27 includes progress below.

- On February 26 Marybeth and Janet met with the Facilities Management and Finance Departments to discuss the timeline and steps needed to complete the Wellesley High School LED retrofit project narrative.
- Marybeth has been working with the Wellesley Municipal Light Plant (WMLP), Police Department and Town Counsel to develop the municipal parking lot LED retrofit project.
- Meghan Condon of the Department of Public Works is collecting quotes and other information required to include water treatment plant roof insulation.
- Chief Pilecki and Tim Gover are providing information for a hybrid police cruiser.

### ***Future Competitive Grant Rounds***

Marybeth and Janet spoke with Don Newell to discuss possible projects (e.g. battery storage and microgrid) for future competitive grant rounds.

### **Greenhouse Gas Inventory**

In the past two weeks, Janet completed the 2019 Town-wide GHG inventory for inclusion in the Report to Annual Town Meeting (ATM) 2020. Work included finalizing data collection and modeling, data input and running results using ICLEI software, compiling results into the format used in the ATM report, analyzing results, following up with data providers to resolve errors and better understand underlying causes of changes in energy use, and drafting a write-up summarizing notable changes in Wellesley's emissions.

### **Annual Town Meeting**

Marybeth has been revising budget documents and working with Deed McCullom on the SEC's contribution to Article 8. Janet and Marybeth drafted the SEC's Report to Annual Town Meeting.

### **3R Working Group and Green Collaborative (from Sue Morris)**

#### ***Wellesley Middle School Food Waste Diversion Pilot***

The Wellesley Middle School Food Waste Diversion pilot program is ongoing. We are hoping to roll out the next phase, Phase 3 (which will include all the 6th grade) soon but need to wait for the go ahead from the WMS/WPS administration. There are still Health Department, custodial and funding issues to resolve. There was a Health Department meeting Thursday to discuss the SOP's. Vivian (Health) would like FMD involved in the process and we are hoping they/custodians will be willing to help with the program despite this not being part of their union contract. We are also awaiting approval from the WMS administration about parent volunteers to help with the food waste pilot.

#### ***Wellesley High School Food Waste Diversion Pilot***

The Wellesley High School Food Waste Diversion pilot has been approved but has not yet begun. The kids from the Student Congress that are organizing the pilot need to do final Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) which will require final approval from the Health Department. The kids also have a list of students that are willing to help monitor the process when students are sorting their trash, recycling and food waste. The Wellesley High School custodians have stated that they will not be helping with this program. We are hoping we can figure out a way to have the custodians agree to help out as we feel that it is very important to the success of the program.

### ***3R Working Group Meeting***

The 3R Working Group met on Friday of last week. The decision was made that Sue Morris will be the new chair of the 3R Working Group in hopes of taking a task off Marybeth's very heavy workload. We discussed goals for the 3RWG and agreed that waste reduction is a major focus of the group. We are going to follow through with a marketing campaign for the RDF which will include a welcome package for new residents with information about the RDF and the many reasons to recycle there. We also started planning for the May 5th Green Collaborative Meeting which will be a waste reduction theme called Wa\$teWi\$e Wellesley and will feature Kirstie Pecci from the Conservation Law Foundation, Jamie Manzolini from the RDF as well as Chris Beling from the EPA and a few others from the current Zero Waste Wellesley Campaign, WPS Food Diversion, Repair Cafe, Library of Things, etc. More to Come!

### **Sustainable Buildings (from Fred Bunger)**

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

Marybeth consulted with FMD and made final revisions to the [Municipal Sustainable Building Guidelines](#), Marybeth then sent memos to BOS, School Committee, Municipal Light Board, Board of Public Works, Library Trustees, Recreation Commission, and Natural Resources Commission (NRC) requesting that these boards vote on and sign the Guidelines. The status of approvals appears below:

- NRC approved (Fred Bunger and Marybeth attended meeting)
- BPW approved (Fred attended meeting)
- Recreation Commission will vote on March 9
- Library Trustees discuss on March 9
- School Committee will vote on March 10
- MLB – March meeting not yet set
- BOS will vote after all other boards have voted

#### ***Bylaw barriers to energy improvements***

Fred followed up with contractors who expressed concern with Town Set Back and Yard Regulations that were a barrier to installing energy saving heat pumps and adding insulation to home exteriors. Marybeth and Fred met with Planning Dept. Director 2/25 to discuss best way to prepare for making necessary changes at 2021 Town Meeting. SEC to provide definition of sustainability equipment and insulation measures to Planning.

#### ***Police Station Energy***

Received Rise Engineering report of January 14th MassSave audit. Audit found high baseline gas usage with relatively normal heating usage. Report reviewed by FMD and Rise responded

to questions. Meeting in February to plan ASHRAE level II audit. Very high electrical use and base gas use will be the targets of the audit.

### ***Morses Pond Project***

On March 3, Marybeth attended a presentation about the Morses Pond Feasibility Study. Marybeth and FMD suggested that the project explore the possibility of Zero Net Energy, consider building orientation and the possibility of solar on the bathhouse.

### ***Fossil Fuel Infrastructure Ban***

Fred reviewed Arlington and Concord proposed bans on fossil fuel infrastructure. Article for Concord 2020 Town Meeting attached:

### ***Stretch Code update***

Fred attended Board of Building Regulation and Standards Energy Advisory Committee meeting 2/3. Discussion centered around proposal for a net zero energy stretch code. They are leaning toward adopting an American Institute of Architects (AIA) proposal to adopt the 2021 IECC code then install or procure enough renewable energy to achieve zero net carbon annually. There was discussion on choosing net zero carbon or net zero energy. I encouraged net zero energy as it does not require knowing the carbon coming in from grid electricity. Meeting attended by AIA, New England Energy Partnership (NEEP), MassClean Energy Center and Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) representatives.

### **Transportation**

Marybeth attended the Mobility Working Group meeting on February 25. MAPC joined the meeting by phone. The group discussed the scope of an RFP for a transportation study.

### **Climate Action Plan (CAP)**

Marybeth and Janet spoke with Kim Lungren of KLA to discuss planning for a CAP. On March 9 Marybeth and Janet will speak with the Town of Weston about their CAP and Municipal Vulnerability and Preparedness Program experience.

### **Advancing Electrification in Wellesley (from Lise Olney)**

Fred Bunger and Lise Olney met with Regina LaRocque (NRC) and Wellesley resident Ellen Watts last week. Ellen is an architect specializing in high performance design and was a key consultant to the citizens group in Brookline who recently won Town Meeting approval for a bylaw restricting new gas hook-ups. The goal of our meeting was to discuss the possibility of advancing electrification in Wellesley through a similar bylaw. Ellen shared a number of insights from the Brookline experience. We would like to invite Regina and Ellen to an upcoming SEC meeting to discuss this topic and to consider the potential for a Green Collaborative meeting

in September focused on the topic of transitioning to clean heating sources. Meanwhile, Arlington is moving forward with a proposed bylaw at their Annual Town Meeting at the end of April (click here for more information). The attached slides were presented at an information session on the proposed bylaw last week. (See PowerPoint presentation attached separately to Marybeth's email).

#### **Volunteer Renewable Energy Program Working Group (from Ellen Korpi)**

Don Newell has appointed Jack Stewart, Ellen Korpi, Laura Olton and Scott Bender to join two WMLP staffers on the Working Group to consider a redesign of the Volunteer Renewable Energy Program.

#### **Sierra Club's Municipal Climate Leadership Workshop (from Laura Olton)**

Laura Olton attended the Sierra Club's Municipal Climate Leadership Workshop on Saturday, February 29. Below are links to the presentation on climate as well as signups for materials.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Jacob Stern <[jacob.stern@sierraclub.org](mailto:jacob.stern@sierraclub.org)>  
**Subject: Follow Up from Sierra Club's Climate Leadership Workshop**  
**Date:** March 2, 2020 at 3:03:45 PM EST  
**Cc:** Deb Pasternak <[deb.pasternak@sierraclub.org](mailto:deb.pasternak@sierraclub.org)>, Miranda Catsambas <[miranda.catsambas@sierraclub.org](mailto:miranda.catsambas@sierraclub.org)>

Good afternoon,

Thanks to those who joined us on Saturday. We have been delighted to see the interest in clean energy and climate issues steadily increasing around the state. The photo from Saturday afternoon is also attached. As promised, here are the materials and resources from the event:

- [Our slideshow presentation](#)
- [A link to the recording of the presentation](#) (it's uploaded on YouTube, but only accessible at this link)
- The handouts we shared about [community choice energy](#) and [electric vehicle procurement](#)

By default we will plan on adding all attendees to our [Local Climate Leadership Google Group](#). **If you do not want to be added, please let me know.** You can also unsubscribe at any time simply by emailing me. The list usually generates only 2-4 email threads per month.

#### **About our Climate Leadership Google Group:**

The purpose is to facilitate the sharing of information among city and town officials. Sierra Club Massachusetts Chapter created this group as a place to offer critical resources, but, more importantly, to create opportunities for local leaders to ask questions and share successes and

experiences. We share a monthly digest of upcoming actions, opportunities, and recent accomplishments and keep email spam to an absolute minimum. Old versions of our local climate leadership newsletter are available here: <https://www.sierraclub.org/massachusetts/climate-leadership-newsletter>.

Membership is restricted to individuals who have a formal capacity within a Massachusetts city or town. This includes mayors, city/town councilors, select board members, municipal sustainability committees, relevant municipal staff, etc.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about any of the above, or are seeking assistance in your municipality.

Sincerely,  
Jacob

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*Pronouns: he/him/his*