



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

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SEC Project Updates

April 3, 2020

Green Communities 2020 Competitive Grant Round

Marybeth Martello and Janet Mosley prepared Wellesley's 2020 Green Communities grant application (submitted on March 27). In completing the application Marybeth and Janet worked with several departments including the Board of Selectmen's Office, Facilities Management Department (FMD), Wellesley Municipal Light Plant (WMLP), Police, Finance, Geographic Information Systems, and Department of Public Works. The application requested \$137,920 for the following projects:

- Light-emitting Diode (LED) Retrofit in the High School Cafeteria and Gymnasium;
- LED Retrofit in Eight of Nine Municipal Parking Lots; and
- Two Ford Interceptor Hybrid Cruisers for the Police Department.

Please see attached grant summary table for more details.

Sustainable Energy Committee (SEC) Statement on Question 1

Laura Olton and Marybeth Martello prepared an SEC statement on Question 1: A Non-binding Referendum on Six versus Seven Schools

Article 26

On March 11, Lise Olney and Marybeth Martello presented Article 26 to the Advisory Committee. Advisory unanimously approved Article 26.

Sustainable Buildings (from Fred Bunger)

Municipal Sustainable Building Guidelines (MSBG)

The status of MSBG approvals appears below:

- NRC approved (Fred Bunger and Marybeth attended meeting)
- BPW approved (Fred attended meeting)
- Recreation Commission unanimously approved on March 9 (Fred and Marybeth attended)
- Library Trustees were supportive on March 9, but declined to vote until their next meeting (Fred and Marybeth attended)
- School Committee unanimously approved on March 10 (Fred and Marybeth attended)
- MLB – deferred until their April or May meeting
- BOS will vote after all other boards have voted

Police Station Energy

Marybeth, Janet and Fred met with Joe McDonough and Allen Hebert of FMD on March 11 to discuss next steps for the Police Station energy audit. Marybeth, with FMD help, will prepare a Request for Proposals for an ASHRAE level II audit in Summer or Fall. Allen will assist with tracking different electrical loads.

Solar on Town Buildings

Marybeth and Fred participated in a March 27th photovoltaic (PV) planning meeting with FMD, WMLP, Permanent Building Committee, Schools, School Building Committee, Board of Selectmen and Hunnewell project team staff confirmed that the Hunnewell project will purchase solar panels for the roof. Concern was expressed that the installed cost of roof-mounted solar under prevailing wage is considerably higher than large ground mounted solar farms. Compass is organizing a follow-up PV meeting with FMD, WMLP, Planning and others. Marybeth is consulting with Planning and Town Counsel to understand how a solar installation at the Rt. 9/Rt. 128 cloverleaf could provide power to Wellesley municipal buildings.

Stretch Code Update

Fred sent comments to the Energy Advisory Committee of Board of Building Regulations (BBRS) and Standards and the Massachusetts Climate Action Network about including an energy use intensity (EUI) standard in Stretch Code updates. BBRS meetings are suspended for now.

Heat Smart Alliance

Leanne Cowley attended a Heat Smart Alliance event in Wayland on March 3. The purpose was to convert buildings to heat pumps by offering lower costs through aggregated

installations. The presentation slides are attached. The SEC might consider joining the Heat Smart program to encourage home energy upgrades in Wellesley.

Bylaw Barriers to Energy Improvements:

Fred provided a definition of “sustainability equipment” to the Planning Director and followed-up with contractor suggestions to include exterior insulation and a requirement for heat pump minimum efficiency in proposed bylaw revisions.

Better Building Challenge webinar

A US Department of Energy (USDOE) webinar on March 3 included a summary of Nantum, a “brain” for buildings that provides continuous information on building systems for energy tracking and control. A municipal bond investment firm and realty firm showed more efficient buildings (lower EUI) have lower borrowing costs and lower risk premiums.

3R Working Group and Green Collaborative

The March 30 3R Working Group meeting and May 5 Green Collaborative meetings are cancelled.

Wellesley Municipal Light Plant (from Ellen Korpi)

Solar

At their next meeting, the WMLP Board will be presented for approval a 25-year contract for solar power at a very favorable rate. The contract, that includes all environmental attributes (SRECs), will provide 2% of the WMLP’s total power.

Voluntary Renewable Energy Program (VREP) Redesign

The Working Group (Don Newell, Jack Stewart, Ellen Korpi, Laura Olton, Scott Bender, Joanne Scannell and Terry Connelly) decided:

- New VREP design will keep open the option of including emission reduction programs beyond just the purchase of renewable energy. As a model to provide ideas, we will review the programs to which the investor-owned utilities apply funds they are mandated to collect for sustainability.
- New VREP program will focus only on funds the WMLP collects from customers (whether in Opt-In or Opt-Out program).
- We will develop an Evaluation Grid (first draft by Scott Bender) to aid in choosing what to include in the program with the goal of prioritizing:
 - Local projects;
 - Projects with good return on emissions reduction; and
 - Projects the WMLP would not otherwise do with its own funds.

- The WMLP should continue to take a leadership role (e.g. for solar installations on municipal/school buildings) where we have expertise for steps the Town can take to reduce emissions.

We are now researching how other utilities structured successful Community Solar programs.

Demand Response

We are interviewing other MLPs to determine the best way to approach a voluntary demand response program for this summer's peak demand. Longer term, an automated solution will be much more effective and we are researching the available technology.

New Assistant Director

Don Newell, MLP Director, has created a new senior position of Assistant Director and the person he has chosen, who plans to join the team in early June, will have primary responsibility for sustainability programs.