



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

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SEC Project Updates

June 3, 2020

Municipal Vulnerability and Preparedness Action Grant

The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program Action Grants are due on June 11. Action grant proposals are due on June 11, 2020. Available funding totals \$10 million dollars. The last grant round awarded a total of \$10.5 million with an average grant amount of \$195,000.

Wellesley will seek MVP grant funding for a grant entitled Community Engagement for Climate Action and Resilience. Marybeth Martello, Janet Mosley and Brandon Schmitt are preparing the application and have requested letters of support from Town departments and other organizations.

Sustainable Buildings

Municipal Sustainable Building Guidelines (MSBG)

- Laura Olton is creating a reader-friendly format for MSBG
- Marybeth requested that the Library Trustees vote on MSBG at their next meeting and the Library Executive Board will discuss this request at their meeting this week.
- The Swellesley Report ran a piece on MSBG – see this [link](#)

Yard Setback Bylaws – Fred Bunker and Marybeth drafted a PowerPoint presentation re: amendments to the yard setback regulations that will make it easier to make building energy efficiency improvements. Fred and Marybeth requested that Planning Director Don McCauley review the draft and provide advice on the proposed language. Marybeth will also discuss this initiative with Meghan Jop, Michael Grant and other relevant departments before presenting to the Planning Board in July.

Police Station Energy – Meghan Jop recommended deferment of this project to FY2022, given recent cuts to capital budgets

Massachusetts School Building Authority- Lise Olney signed the attached letter from municipal officials to Treasurer Deb Goldberg and the Mass School Building Authority (MSBA) asking the MSBA to consider requiring “all school building projects funded by MSBA be fully electrified, and climate resilient.” Wellesley is mentioned in the letter, which was written by Newton City Councilor Emily Norton and Mass Sierra Club. Mass Sierra Club is now circulating the letter for additional signatures.

Board of Building Regulation and Standards – The SEC submitted a letter urging the BBRS to update the current Stretch Code to an NZE Stretch Code, based on the EZ Code.

Greenhouse Gas Inventory (from Janet)

Janet discussed Wellesley’s greenhouse gas emissions inventory with an inventory expert from KLA. Janet is assessing Wellesley’s inventory.

SEC Communication

Marybeth submitted articles highlighting the solar rebate and Bring Your Own Charger (BYOC) Programs to the NRC’s May Newsletter.

Article 26

Pam Posey has made significant contributions to a presentation that can serve as the basis for the Article 26 presentation to Town Meeting and will provide the SEC with valuable graphics, website content and presentation materials for the coming year and beyond.

Laura Olton and Lise Olney attended the Moderator’s Meeting on May 29.

SEC Transportation Working Group (TWG)

TWG is preparing a proposal to respond to the current needs for physical distance and COVID-related changes in mobility patterns by proposing a 3-month pilot to the Mobility Working Group: temporarily modify carefully-selected Wellesley streets to facilitate and encourage safe walking and biking, while adhering to Social Distancing Guidelines.

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

3R will meet on June 3 from 2-3:00pm.

Municipal Light Plant Sustainability Update (from MLP)

VREP Redesign – In order to better understand the legal and financial structure of Community Solar in other venues, we have endeavored to interview third party vendors who offer this product. The current crisis has made contact difficult, but 2 interviews have been conducted and outreach to a third vendor is underway.

Nexamp discussion lead to brainstorming about the possibility of them creating a new model that would be appropriate for an MLP utility. Nexamp needs to internally discuss whether they are open to exploring a unique project model for Wellesley and/or whether they would consider offering the WMLP (in conjunction with the ENE group of MLPs) a PPA from the utility scale solar installation they have under development.

Participation update with current VREP Program: 24 Total New participating customers in VREP since 01/01/20 - 3 @ 50% and 21 @ 100%

VREP Opt Out vote will not take place at town meeting this spring but will at a later date in fall.

WMLP Solar Rebate Program - May 1, the Department of Energy Resources awarded ENE an additional \$372,200 for the MLP Solar Rebate Program, as well as extending the deadline to apply for this rebate. Applications can now be submitted through 12/30/2020, and program completions through 12/30/2021.

Our solar rebate program has been in effect for roughly 12 months. We have 9 completed installations. We have 5 more that are in progress. Those 14 add up to 122.94 kW DC allocation against the 192 kW DC approved by the WMLP Board. After 12 months, we're at 64%. The deadline for approval (assuming it doesn't change again) is December 30, 2020. That leaves roughly another 7 months. We're at "mile marker" 12 out of 19 months. That's ~63% along and we've allocated ~64% of the funds.

REC'S earned total to date for the WMLP through the Solar program is 6.5 MA class 1 RECS

Energy Efficiency - WMLP and ENE are starting a marketing campaign for virtual home energy audits, 2 have been completed in the town. We are marketing on web site and through Stephanie Hawkinson at town hall. ENE has been successful with this program in other towns.

Electric Vehicles - Current participation rate in BYOC program is 169 and next plan to promote them;

- May EV program: market and set up a Q&A session for your EV customers for a digital event; ENE has developed a 3-part webinar on their EV ENE YouTube channel to educate customers about EVs. It is being advertised to Wellesley residents starting in early June and the program will run on June 23
- Sent targeted marketing email to 58 WMLP customers from obtained MOR-EV data for who has not yet enrolled in BYOC
- ENE has created a digital portal and online webinar for EV customers to engage for Q & A for all questions EV.

- Sagewell (program partner) will be reaching out to existing customers to ensure enrolled EVs are still scheduled to program off-peak and enrolled customers still have their EVs.

When the new Assistant Director arrives on June 2, a high priority will be to organize the details of a voluntary demand response program to deal with peak demand this summer and the redesign of incentives for customers participating in sustainability initiatives.