



## SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

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### SEC Project Updates

August 21, 2020

#### Climate Action and Resilience Plan

Marybeth Martello prepared a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP). In developing the RFP Marybeth reviewed example RFPs from other towns and from several Wellesley departments. To fine tune RFP details and decide on the best strategy for issuing the RFP, Marybeth met with Brandon Schmitt, Doug Stewart, and later with Meghan Jop.

Marybeth consulted with Meghan Jop and with Kevin Kennedy to prepare for the CARP consultant interview and selection process.

Consultant interview process:

1. Form Consultant Selection Group with SEC and NRC members and staff and hopefully Kevin K.
2. Provide all members with RFP and scoring sheets
3. Meeting #1 - with WG before proposals are due
4. Each WG member scores each RFP
5. Meeting #2 – Public meeting to discuss scores, rank firms, decide on top three firms for interviews, outline interview questions
6. Meeting #3 – Public meeting to interview top three firms, rank firms and recommend firm to enter into contract negotiation
7. SEC and NRC vote on recommendation.

Marybeth, Janet Mosley, Laura Olton, Fred Bunger and Pam Posey met as the CARP Steering Committee on August 5, 11 and 19. They discussed the role of the Steering Committee and goals for this group, the RFP, community outreach, municipal engagement, updates to Wellesley's greenhouse (GHG) inventory, GHG emissions goals and the consultant selection process. Marybeth invited Beth Sullivan Woods to join an upcoming CARP Steering Committee meeting to discuss commercial sector engagement. Marybeth is organizing a Steering Committee meeting with the Municipal Light Plant (MLP).

Pam Posey and Janet are gathering information to facilitate the SEC's discussion of Wellesley's GHG emissions reduction goal. Pam put together a comparison of GHG reduction goals proposed by the

Massachusetts Senate, House, and executive branch, as well as a summary of goals adopted by other MA towns and cities.

Janet carried out research on the methods used in the MAPC GHG Inventory tool to see if they would be useful for Wellesley's inventory. Through this research and conversations with staff at Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP) she has identified an emissions factor specific to electricity supplied by Wellesley MLP that MA DEP calculates annually.

### **Planning for FY21**

Richard, Martha and Marybeth met to discuss transportation goals for FY21. Fred and Marybeth met to discuss building goals for FY21.

### **Leaf-blower Webinar**

The webinar "**Leaf Blowers & Our Health: What's Right for Wellesley?**," a virtual community forum on **Tuesday, July 28**, was very well attended and co-sponsored by three Green Collaborative organizations: Sustainable Wellesley, Town of Wellesley Sustainable Energy Committee, and Wellesley Natural Resources Commission.

An expert panel reviewed health and environmental impacts of gas powered leaf blowers and discuss what communities are doing to shift to electric-powered equipment and alternative landscaping practices.

### **Municipal Sustainable Building Guidelines (MSBG)**

MSBG approval by Board of Selectmen (BOS) is awaiting BOS meeting.

### **Rocky Mountain Institute Building Electrification Accelerator (RMI BEA)**

RMI BEA teams are adjusting to MA Attorney General denial of the Brookline Fossil Fuel Bylaw. The RMI team meeting July 30<sup>th</sup> suggested the Path(s) Forward for Municipalities:

1. Zoning incentives
2. Home rule petition
3. Local resolutions to catalyze state legislation
  - a. Enabling legislation for Brookline ordinance
  - b. Broader mandate for enabling climate goals
4. Green Communities Act
5. Brookline-style ordinance [cities only].

The Wellesley BEA team is discussing the potential for zoning incentives that would encourage building electrification. Meanwhile, stakeholder lists are being developed, basic building information is being gathered and opportunities for collaboration are being pursued.

### **School Projects**

Hunnewell: Permanent Building Committee (PBC) resumed schematic design; 6 month delay due to COVID19.

Hardy/Upham: The School Building Committee (SBC) continues to review site plans, traffic, sustainability, tree canopy, etc. for 2 Upham options, and a new Hardy plus Add/Renovate option. Project costs and criteria for selection of Hardy or Upham options are under review aiming for SBC selection by mid-September and School Committee and BOS votes in October. A sustainability update indicated the designs easily meet LEEDv4 Silver rating and showed EUI for new building options are the same as Hunnewell, with the Hardy Add/Renovate option being 1-3 points higher. Selected building will be solar-ready, but solar panels are not covered by MSBC. Panel costs vs WMLP ability to buy solar electricity was mentioned.

### **Wellesley Country Club Tennis Facility**

Sue Morris, Ellen Watts, and leadership of Sustainable Wellesley are working to encourage Wellesley Country Club to consider using sustainable building practices such as those outlined in the Municipal Sustainable Building Guidelines to minimize the environmental impact of the Club's new tennis facility.

### **Better Buildings Webinars**

American Council for Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) conducted two webinars. Studies of the Portland, Oregon ordinance requiring home energy scores on real estate listings showed higher prices for more efficient homes and an effect of new owners taking more action to improve scores by doing energy retrofits.

A second webinar presented a study of Energiesprong deep energy retrofits of NY multifamily housing and introduced a toolkit for packaging energy retrofits in commercial buildings that integrated with the real estate lifecycle.

### **International Energy Conservation Code**

From New Buildings Institute:

While voters resoundingly cast votes last November for a much improved International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), some updates are being appealed by groups pressuring the International Code Council (ICC) to roll back votes and restrict some governmental members from voting in future code development cycles. For more information see:

<https://newbuildings.org/2021-energy-code-progress-challenged-climate-and-affordability-stand-to-lose-unless-we-speak-up/>.

Fred drafted a letter to send to ICC to demonstrate Wellesley SEC's support for the improved energy efficiency achieved by voters in the 2021 IECC.

### **Shared Streets**

Wellesley has been selected for the latest round of Mass Department of Transportation's Shared Streets and Spaces grant program. The Shared Streets and Spaces quick-launch/quick-build grant program will provide grants as small as \$5,000 and as large as \$300,000 for cities and towns to quickly implement or expand improvements to sidewalks, curbs, streets, on-street parking spaces and off-street parking lots in

support of public health, safe mobility, and renewed commerce in their communities. The Town of Wellesley has received \$61,312.25 in order to implement the following:

Support increased biking and walking by creating bike parking along Washington Street, and connecting the Fuller Brook Path to the Crosstown Trail. It will also enable greater physical separation by expanding the sidewalk areas and by transforming the on-street metered parking along the park at Washington Street and Worcester Street into ADA-compliant parklets for outdoor seating for dining, retail, and community activities.

More information about the program can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/shared-streets-and-spaces-grant-program>

### **MAPC Regional EV Strategy**

Martha Collins attended the MAPC Regional EV Strategy Call of FY21. Discussion included follow up on opportunities for charging station utilization analysis, collaborative advocacy and idea generation for future discussions.

### **Election**

Collette Aufranc, candidate for the Board of Selectmen, contacted Marybeth to learn more about the SEC.

### **Green Collaborative**

A Green Collaborative webinar on Zero Waste is planned for September 30. Sue Morris and Marybeth met with Kirstie Pecci of the Conservation Law Foundation to discuss Kirstie's webinar presentation. Speakers will also include Jamie Manzolini (RDF) and Chris Beling (EPA).

### **FoodCycler**

Sue Morris met with a [FoodCycler](#) representative to discuss the technology and economics behind its in-home system for food waste recycling.

### **Wellesley Municipal Light Plant**

Marybeth responded to a request from the MLP re: using a Municipal Energy Technical Assistance (META) grant from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) to fund structural analysis of the Wellesley Department of Public Works (DPW) roof for a possible solar installation.