



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

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

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Laura Olton, Chair

Susan Morris, Vice Chair

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SEC Project Updates

November 6, 2020

Green Communities

Work began on the following Green Communities-funded projects. Janet is coordinating invoices and keeping an eye on the timeline.

- \$25,128, Exterior LED lighting in municipal parking lots
- \$98,500, Interior LED lighting in the High School auditorium and gymnasium
- \$10,000, Two hybrid police cruisers
- \$4,292, Administrative assistance to support LED lighting projects

Janet Mosley compiled data from the DPW, MLP, FMD, Building Department, Planning Department, and MetroWest Regional Transit Authority for the Green Communities Annual Report due on November 6. Janet presented the Annual Report to the Select Board (SB) on November 2 and submitted the report November 4. Marybeth Martello, Laura Olton and Sue Morris also attended the SB meeting.

On October 21, Janet Mosley submitted a response to the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) Request for Information related to the structure of the Green Communities grant program.

Climate Action Plan

The Climate Action Plan (CAP) Steering Committee (Marybeth, Janet Mosley, Laura Olton, Fred Bungler, Sue Morris and Pam Posey) met on October 15 and November 1 to discuss CAP content, municipal and community outreach and website design.

Marybeth requested feedback on a draft CAP outline from the Municipal Light Plant (MLP), Department of Public Works (DPW), Natural Resources Department (NRC), Planning Department and the Facilities Management Department. Marybeth had a follow-up meeting with Brandon Schmitt (10/28) to discuss priority climate actions and timing. Marybeth and Janet had similar discussions with Don Newell and Francisco Frias (11/3) and with Joe McDonough and Allen Hebert (11/3).

On October 16, Marybeth met with Mike Thompson and Stephanie Hawkinson to discuss the SEC and CAP webpages. Marybeth reviewed a number of climate-related websites from other towns and sent a design for a revised SEC webpage, CAP landing page and CAP dashboard to Mike Thompson who has agreed to help to build these pages.

Marybeth met with Cammie Curtain and Chiara Martello (10/28) to discuss preliminary ideas regarding youth outreach.

Marybeth spoke with Phyllis Theermann (10/29) to discuss partnering with Sustainable Wellesley on CAP community outreach.

Marybeth reached out to Steve Gusmini (Babson College) and Olivia Shehan (Wellesley College) to start to re-establish college connections for the CAP.

Special Town Meeting

Article 12 passed at Special Town Meeting, adopting a resolution to address the serious impact of climate change and requiring that all boards, committees and departments, among other actions, proactively consider actions to reduce GHG emissions associated with Town supported projects and programs, document in the Town Annual Report efforts undertaken to combat climate change, and coordinate with the SEC to develop and implement a comprehensive CAP for the Town.

Lise Olney and Marybeth prepared and recorded an Article 12 presentation for Special Town Meeting.

Town Budget

Marybeth, Laura Olton, Sue Morris, Ellen Korpi and Lise Olney attended the inter-board meeting on October 29. The Town's budget is very tight due to COVID-19.

SEC Annual Report

Stephanie Hawkinson requested departments to submit streamlined annual reports by November 6. Marybeth drafted the SEC's report.

Open Position on SEC

Many people have expressed interest in the open SEC position. A team of Laura Olton, Fred Bunger and Sue Morris have held Zoom meetings with potential candidates and will make a recommendation shortly.

Urban Sustainability Directors Network

Following a preliminary exploration by Janet, Marybeth interviewed with the Urban Sustainability Director's Network (USDN) and completed a membership application. The SEC is now a member of USDN. This organization facilitates networking, learning and collaboration relevant to virtually all aspects of the SEC's work. On October 26 and 27 Marybeth attended USDN's virtual annual conference. Equity was the overarching theme.

Mobility Working Group

From Martha Collins:

Meghan Jop circulated the near-final draft of the RFP for the sustainable mobility study. Martha Collins provided minor suggested edits and comments. The RFP identifies greenhouse gas emission reductions as a key goal and the study will support the CAP. The due date for RFP responses will be Tuesday, November 24, 2020.

The next Mobility Working Group meeting is November 19 at 3:00 pm.

On Wednesday, October 21, at the request of Martha Collins, Cindy Mahr provided information about a federal electric vehicle (EV) bus rebate program to Eastern Bus, Wellesley's school bus transportation contractor. The rebate offered by the program is \$65,000 per bus.

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-10/documents/fy20-dera-schoolbus-rebate-faq-2020-10-28.pdf>

Highland Electric is an EV school bus transportation provider that the School Committee and MLP may want to explore. Town ownership of EV school buses could offer long-term benefits such as reduced operating costs and maintenance, and energy storage, and charging back to the grid.

<https://www.highlandet.com/>

Martha attended an MAPC webinar on "EV Charging at Multi-Family Dwellings" on Wednesday, October 21. There are attractive incentives that we should communicate to the current developers of multi-family dwellings in Wellesley at locations such as Great Plain Ave., Delanson Circle, Weston Road and the John Hancock property.

Martha identified the following resources for EV charging at multi-family dwellings (Note: National Grid and Eversource programs may not apply to Wellesley):

- <http://www.nescaum.org/documents/ev-right-to-charge.pdf/view>
- <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-massevip-multi-unit-dwelling-charging-incentives>
- <https://www.nationalgridus.com/media/pdfs/resi-ways-to-save/ee7769-ma-ev-factsheet.pdf>
- https://www.eversource.com/content/docs/default-source/save-money-energy/electric-vehicle-make-ready-application.pdf?sfvrsn=85cdcd62_2
- **AchiEve: Model Policies to Accelerate Electric Vehicle Adoption** Sierra Club, Plug In America, FORTH, and the Electrification Coalition, August 2020
<https://www.electrificationcoalition.org/achieve/>
- **Increasing Electric Vehicle Charging Access at Multi-Unit Dwellings: Workshop Summary Report** Energy Innovation Policy and Technology LLC, September 2020
https://energyinnovation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Increasing-Electric-Vehicle-Charging-at-Multi-Unit-Dwellings_FINAL3.pdf
- **Multi-Unit Dwelling Electric Vehicle Charging** Center for Sustainable Energy and the San Diego Association of Governments
https://www.sandag.org/uploads/projectid/projectid_511_25855.pdf

MAPC is offering the following webinars:

FY21 Schedule & Topics for MAPC Regional EV Strategy Calls

Wednesday, December 9, 2020 11 AM – 12:30 PM

Topic Focus: EV Adoption / Engagement Tactics During COVID-19

Wednesday, February 17, 2020 11 AM – 12:30 PM

Topic Focus: Emerging Opportunities to Electrify Municipal Fleets

Wednesday, April 21, 2020 11 AM – 12:30 PM

Topic Focus: Local Regulations for EVs/EV Charging

Wednesday, June 16, 2020 11 AM – 12:30 PM

Topic Focus: TBD

3R Working Group project update

Sue Morris and others are working with Jamie Manzolini, the Superintendent of the Wellesley Recycling and Disposal Facility (RDF) and Stephanie Hawkinson, the Town's communications director, on a campaign to promote the recycling of some high value recyclables at the RDF, including cardboard and newspaper. They have created a flyer with information about why it is important and economical to recycle these items. They are also planning widespread promotion of this message through the town, Sustainable Wellesley, and media outlets. A 3R Working Group meeting will take place in the next month to work on revised goals and initiatives.

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Recycling Dividends Program Grant

Wellesley was awarded \$10,400 in grant funding from the MassDEP Recycling Dividends Program (RDP). The RDP recognizes municipalities that have implemented policies and programs proven to maximize materials reuse and recycling, as well as waste reduction. Communities that earn RDP payments must reinvest the funds in their recycling programs for things such as new recycling bins or carts, public education and outreach campaigns, collection of hard-to-recycle items and the establishment of recycling programs in schools, municipal buildings and other public spaces.

Rocky Mountain Institute Building Electrification Accelerator

Resolution: The Wellesley BEA team is preparing a draft resolution that asks the state legislature to take action on climate change bills because the towns cannot meet their climate change goals without solid state support. The other 15 towns in the RMI program are preparing similar resolutions. The RMI seminar of October 22 included examples of communication and community engagement around equitable climate change. A collaboration between San Francisco Emerald Cities (environmental group) and PODER (a Latinx action group) prepared the way for an equitable and just electrification of low and affordable income housing. A communication toolkit was provided.

Zoning: The review of sustainability language in other Towns' zoning and Design Review sustainability was updated. An abstract of potential zoning changes and the process to make the changes is being prepared. A meeting with Planning Department staff is planned for November 17th.

Wellesley Housing Authority

Fred reviewed the Wellesley Housing Authority (WHA) long term plan to upgrade Wellesley subsidized housing presented by Tise Engineering. Fred is working with the WHA director to calculate baseline energy efficiency calculations for all 234 WHA housing units.

Town Hall Interior Renovations

The following link is the presentation for the Town Hall Interior Supplemental Study that was presented by the Facilities Management Department and the project team at the October 19 Select Board meeting. <https://wellesleyma.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/430>

Aqueduct Restrooms

Marybeth and Fred Bunger communicated with Brandon Schmitt about the application of Municipal Sustainable Building Guidelines to the Aqueduct restroom project.

Morses Pond Bath House

The final master plan for the Morses Pond Bath House will be discussed at the December Community Preservation Committee meeting.

Webinar Summaries and Other Sustainability News

EV Ready: A Multi-Dwelling Unit (MDU) EV Charging Pilot Program

(See attached PDF of the webinar presentation)

New Buildings Institute (NBI) Decarbonization

New Buildings Institute (nbi) conducted a Decarbonization webinar on October 29, providing short summaries of 4 detailed presentations from their forum earlier in the year.

- Clay Nesler of Johnson Controls presented the results of an annual Energy Efficiency Indicator Study conducted with 400 energy and facility managers across the US. Key takeaways: over 83% have achieved or are planning green building certifications, over 60% are “very likely” to achieve a net zero facility in the next ten years, over 30% have replaced fossil fuel with heat pumps over the past year and 74% report health being very important driver of investment.
- Shanti Pless of National Renewable Energy Laboratory spoke on the Future of Building Energy Efficiency Industry. The lower costs for renewable energy are reducing the incentive for efficiency programs. Xcel Energy’s 120-day report to Colorado regulators in 2018 includes an additional 1.1 GW of wind at 1.1-1.8¢/kWh. Solar power bids have come in at 2.2-2.7¢/kWh, and solar+storage at 3.0-3.2 ¢/kWh. PV installation costs have fallen: Residential (~6kW) = \$2.70 per Watt, Commercial(200kW) = \$1.83 per Watt, Utility Scale(100MW) = \$1.06 to \$1.13 per Watt. Saving energy during peak fossil hours and peak congestion hours will still be of high value: "kWh savings anytime, anyplace" will become "kWh savings at the right time, in the right place"

- Ram Narayanamurthy of Electric Power Research Institute spoke on building decarbonization. He asked a question: “What if every air conditioner sold starting today is a heat pump?” Retrofit of AC systems with heat pumps can be cost neutral, but installers can be a barrier. Heat pump water heaters provide very high efficiency, the hurdle is cost. The high impact of Smart Thermostats and EV charging management on electrical peak management was explained.
- Richard Young of the Food Service Technology Center talked about electrification of commercial kitchens. Though full electrification is not economically feasible, switching from the typical 1950’s standard equipment to higher efficiency gas and electric equipment can cut kitchen utility costs 50% and GHG 60%.

Recording and visuals: <https://newbuildings.org/webinar/decarbonization-technologies-what-we-have-what-we-need/>