



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

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SEC Project Updates

July 24, 2020

Climate Action and Resilience Plan

Marybeth Martello met with Stephanie Hawkinson to discuss community engagement related to the Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP). Marybeth is preparing a CARP Request for Proposals. The State will announce Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Action Grant awards in August/September. Wellesley's grant application requested \$100,000 in grant funding and promised a cash match of \$25,000 and an in-kind match of \$15,783.

Marybeth and Janet Mosley met with Dave Cohen and Jeff Azano-Brown, Department of Public Works (DPW) Director and Assistant Director, to discuss grant opportunities and overlaps between the DPW's work plan and the CARP.

Leaf-blower Webinar

"Leaf Blowers & Our Health: What's Right for Wellesley?," a virtual community forum on Tuesday, July 28 at 1 pm, co-sponsored by three Green Collaborative organizations: Sustainable Wellesley, Town of Wellesley Sustainable Energy Committee, and Wellesley Natural Resources Commission.

Leaf Blowers & Our Health: What's Right for Wellesley?

Tuesday, July 28, 1:00 to 2:00 pm

[**Please click here to register and receive Zoom link.**](#) Space is limited.

An expert panel will review 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.

Featured speakers:

- **Jamie Banks, [Quiet Communities](#)** – Health and environmental impacts and alternative solutions
- **Brendan McCue, Strategic Sourcing Manager, Massachusetts Operational Services Division** – Electrifying lawn and garden equipment in the Commonwealth
- **David Pinsonneault, Public Works Director, Town of Lexington** – Lexington's transition to clean, quiet maintenance
- **Dan Mabe, Founder, [American Green Zone Alliance](#)** – The challenges and opportunities of going electric

Please see attached flyer and [click here for press release](#).

[Click here to register and receive Zoom link](#). Space is limited.

For additional information, please contact Sustainable Wellesley at info@SustainableWellesley.com.

Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Janet has reviewed the current methodology used in the community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory and identified areas that require updates to align with best practices. Janet and Marybeth reviewed this list together and identified a list of short-term action items that Janet is now working to complete. Janet is also working on putting together a Gantt chart to plan and track progress on the GHG inventory update.

Shared Streets

The Town of Wellesley (through the Traffic Committee and Lt. Scott Showstead) submitted an application to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) seeking support for outdoor dining in the parking/peak hour travel lane next to Clock Tower Park. Removing both parking and peak hour travel in this lane could reveal that the lane is underused and could provide more space for walking and biking in the future.

The Town is currently working with Rep. Peisch, MassDOT and Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) on a sidewalk and signal under the bridge on Bacon St. and hopefully a pedestrian crossing to make this area safer. As part of this conversation, the Town can also talk with MassDOT about adding a protected bike lane. Route 135 will have to be re-striped in the near future so Wellesley and Natick might be able to work together on a complete streets project/bike lane on 135 connecting the two downtowns.

Anti-Idling

Sue Morris and Phyllis Theermann worked on an anti-idling policy with Police Chief Jack Pilecki. This policy allows traffic attendants to issue citations to drivers found idling more than five minutes. Marybeth drafted a memo to the Board of Selectmen voicing support for this policy.

Towns' Contract with Verizon

Marybeth drafted a memo to the Board of Selectmen on the energy efficiency of cable television equipment. The memo included a list of energy-related questions the BOS could consider posing to Verizon during contract discussions.

Green Collaborative

A Green Collaborative webinar on Zero Waste is planned for September 30. Sue Morris, Marybeth, Chris Beling, from EPA, and Jamie Manzolini, Wellesley Recycling and Disposal Facility (RDF) Superintendent met on July 21 to discuss webinar plans. Speakers will be Jamie, Chris Beling and Kirstie Pecci of the Conservation Law Foundation. Sue and Marybeth will speak with Kirstie in the next couple of weeks and will draft a press release for the event.

FoodCycler

Sue Morris is testing out the [FoodCycler](#) and will meet with the company representative on July 23

Sustainable Buildings (from Fred Bunger)

Municipal Sustainable Building Guidelines

Marybeth spoke with Meghan Jop about scheduling a Board of Selectmen vote on Municipal Sustainable Building Guidelines.

Rocky Mountain Institute Building Electrification Accelerator

Fred attended the Rocky Mountain Institute Building Electrification Accelerator (RMI BEA) kickoff webinar on July 1st and Microsoft Teams training on July 3rd. The BEA team: Lise Olney, Ellen Watts, Fred Bunger, Regina LaRoque, Mary Gard and Marybeth Martello together with coach Lisa Cunningham of Brookline have established a weekly Zoom conference to work on the initial background research and other preparations for a BEA Policy. The Team is preparing a schedule, stakeholder lists and building data that will be helpful to both BEA and CARP

On June 21 the Massachusetts Attorney General determined that State law and the State building code preempt the Brookline gas ban bylaw.

Barton Road

The Housing Authority is considering a redesign of Barton Road. Marybeth has asked Maura Renzella to meet to discuss sustainability and affordable housing.

Bylaw Barriers to Energy Improvements:

Fred and Marybeth proposed modifications to yard setback regulations aimed at easing installation of energy improvements. Fred and Marybeth prepared a draft PowerPoint presentation to share with the Planning Board on this topic. However, the project is now on hold because the Planning Board Chair responded that the Planning Department is busy with more important matters.

Zero Carbon Home

David Green of Dover, MA who wrote “Zero Carbon Home” has offered to help the SEC with any presentations, etc. on energy renovation of homes.

WMLP Incentive Review

Fred provided residential and commercial building data and information on National Grid incentives to help the WMLP's incentive analysis.

Affordable Housing Energy Improvement

Fred passed on Massachusetts Climate Action Network (MCAN) information re: potential incentives for energy retrofits of affordable housing.

Municipal Light Plant Sustainability Update (from Francisco Frias)

Voluntary Renewable Energy Program (VREP)

The VREP working group continues moving forward and focusing on different projects targeting the reason of why the group exists. One of the projects the group has been pursuing is a community-solar project. Incentives for MLPs are not currently available; however, an alternative to this is the installation of a solar system on the roof of 900 Worcester Street. The MLP staff has put together an RFP that will be circulating until responses are received, on August 14th. If a developer is selected and a PPA is successfully negotiated, then the MLP will work on laying out the foundation for a community-solar program, available to the Town residents.

During the July 1st VREP meeting, the group had resident Moneer Azzam do a presentation on micro-grids and the possibility of pursuing a project like this for the Town. This idea will be presented to other departments and groups in the town, to determine the interest of the concept. A meeting is scheduled for July 22nd.

The group also continues to have discussions in preparation for the opt-out program, recently approved at Town meeting. The group will look to have a presentation for the Municipal Light Board in September or October to discuss the program(s) to implement prior to the opt-out program taking effect at the start of 2021.

Other projects and programs updates are below:

Voluntary Demand Response Program

The MLP continues to take steps toward the reduction of CO2 in the environment and on July 7th, 2020 it launched a voluntary demand response program called **Shave the Peak**. This is an entirely voluntary program that aims to reduce the energy usage of the Town during system-wide electricity peaks in the summer. As it is known, during system-wide peaks, the Independent System Operator for New England (ISO-NE) has to rely on high carbon-producing generating plants, which have a detrimental impact on the environment as well as on people. Every month, during really hot days, we have the potential of hitting a system-wide peak, and the goal of this program is to have participants voluntarily reduce their energy usage for a few hours during those peak days. By agreeing to join, participants will receive a maximum of 15 shave-the-peak notifications during the entire summer. These notifications are triggered when hot days are coming. Participants get a notification email indicating that a peak day is coming and with tips on how they can conserve energy during a 4-hour period. While the program motivates them to reduce their energy consumption, it is entirely up to them to decide to reduce their energy usage during any time in those 4 hours. Since the program's launch, 250 residents have joined. The MLP continues to promote the program through social media, by reaching out to different groups, and by word of mouth. Thus far the program has been well received, and the MLP staff continues to work to increase the number of participants and their engagement.

Electric Vehicles Program

The MLP is working with ENE on the EV Education and Awareness program. They continue to target EV owners that are not signed up for the BYOC program to encourage off peak charging of the vehicles. Now that the state of Massachusetts is opening, ENE will reach out to local dealerships to market the program. On June 23, they held an on-line YouTube live Q&A session. There were 36 viewers with great engagement from Wellesley customers regarding EV's and the program. ENE has created a digital portal and on-line webinar for EV customers for all questions EV. The MLP received 100 Inside EV Magazines, some were distributed to participants of the YouTube Live event. On the web page Wellesley Drives Electric there are various informational blogs written, the most recent being **Long Trips Made Easy**.

Solar Rebate Program:

Our solar rebate program has been in effect for approximately 14 months. We have 12 completed installations. We have 6 more that are in progress. Totaling 18 which add up to

148.96 kW DC allocation against the 192 kW DC approved by the WMLP Board. After 14 months we are at 78%.

The deadline for approval is December 30, 2020. That leaves roughly another 5 months. We're at "mile marker" 14 out of 19 months. That's ~74% along and we've allocated ~78% of the funds. We are on target to using 100% of the funds if the trend continues as it has for the first 14 months.

Rebate Program:

FY2020 Update on Rebates total of \$16,000 paid out in rebates for a total of 200 rebates.

A new working group has been developed to assist with Redesigning the Incentive Program of the MLP. They held their first meeting on July 8 to discuss the Action Plan for the group. The group is looking to identify goals and benefits of the program so they align with the values of the community.

The working group participants are: Ellen Korpi, Mary Gard, Judson Jaffe, Fred Bunger & Joanne Scannell

Home Energy Audits:

Remote Home Energy Audits were started in April, since then we have had 7 total done. We will be working with ENE to advertise the program once the on-line platform is up and running. The online platform is called EnergyX Solutions. This platform will be available to MLP customers later this summer. Through the platform customers can perform an online energy audit of their home by answering a handful of simple questions. The platform provides individualized insights about their homes energy use to improve its overall performance. In addition, the tool is integrated with a marketplace giving real time suggestions. This tool optimizes the customer journey and generates industry-leading conversion rates.