



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

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SEC Project Updates

January 26, 2018

Green Communities

The SEC is working with the Facilities Management Department (FMD) and Department of Public Works (DPW) to prepare the Town's designation grant proposal. DOER begins accepting these proposals on February 9. The proposal will include plans for a DPW exterior lighting project, an audit of water and wastewater equipment and operations, one or two pieces of IdleRight equipment to allow for a pilot study, and (possibly) administrative staff support.

Marybeth slightly revised the Energy Conservation Measure (ECM) Selection Plan to reflect the Sustainable Energy Committee's January 3 discussion.

Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Marybeth has gathered energy use data from all Town departments, the colleges, and National Grid. She has been checking the data to make sure it looks reasonable. Overall, the data is looking very good. Marybeth has requested information from Allen Hebert to help answer some questions. In the upcoming weeks, Marybeth will update emissions factors, finish entering data, and analyze results.

Transportation Working Group

The Transportation Working Group (WG) had a "listening" meeting with Representative Alice Peisch on Jan 10, hosted a webinar on Jan 11 for the DPW, Wellesley College and Babson College to learn about XL Hybrid technology for converting municipal vehicles into hybrids, and then had a strategy meeting on January 17. At this time, it appears that Town vehicles do not get the mileage required to make the XL

hybrid cost-effective. However, DPW is taking a closer look at the Town's vehicle mileage and gasoline use.

Ellen Korpi also had conversations with sustainability officials at Wellesley College and Babson College to learn more about their transportation programs.

For School Transportation, the WG has planned a "listening" meeting with School Administration on February 15. After that, the Working Group plans to meet with each member of School Committee individually to advocate that the Wellesley Public School's Strategic Plan include the intention to review the school transportation model to see if it warrants any updates and improvements.

For Public Transportation, the WG recommended to Selectman Chair Ellen Gibbs that in her meeting with MWRTA (sponsor of the #8 bus that services the Town), she recommend a brainstorming session with the Town and local colleges to see if there might be an opportunity to collaborate and pool transportation resources.

RDF Food Waste Pilot

Over the past three months the Recycling and Disposal Facility (RDF) has piloted a very successful food waste program with 300 Wellesley households. Residents drop off their food waste at RDF and RDF transports this waste to an anaerobic digestion facility which turns the waste into natural gas. The RDF just announced it will expand the program to include 300 additional households. As part of its outreach, the DPW will email participants AND 50 people on the waiting list. Ellen will work with Jeff on an outreach campaign.

Marybeth is working with Matt Delaney, Olivia Gieger (WHS grad, now freshman at Amherst) and FMD to develop a proposal/plan to transfer food waste from the WMS kitchen to the RDF's food waste diversion program.

Food Recovery

The food rescue network involving Babson, Food for Free, Wellesley Public Schools, and other area colleges is running well. We have the capacity to provide 22,000 meals annually to food insecure people, using perfectly good, previously-landfill-bound food. We are working toward directing meals to MassBay Community College where approximately 50% of the student population is food insecure.

Alison and Marybeth are working with school staff, Food Services, the Health Department and parent volunteers to launch pre and post-consumer food rescue at Bates, Fiske and Sprague.

The CEO of Whitsons will visit Wellesley on March 13 to observe food recovery operations in Wellesley Public Schools.

High School Stadium Team Room and Hunnewell Field Restrooms

The Department of Public Works recently shared its Request for Proposal for the High School Stadium Team Room and Hunnewell Field Restrooms. The Natural Resources Commission has asked if Marybeth would be part of the group that reviews proposals for this project.

Hardy, Hunnewell, Upham (HHU)

HHU meetings are resuming and Ellen attended one last week.

A conversation between Ellen, Marybeth and Representative Alice Peisch about a variety of projects prompted Alice to contact the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) about some sustainable school-related questions. On January 26, Marybeth received a phone call from Karl Brown of MSBA. Mr. Brown confirmed that MSBA supports an integrated approach to sustainability early in the planning process (e.g., at the feasibility and certainly at the early design phase). He also said that Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) versus the Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) is a decision that is up to the Town. He did not venture to provide any pros/cons for either program.

Annual Town Meeting

The SEC will provide Andrea/Advisory with two items for Town Meeting: (1) a very brief summary of the SEC, its initiatives, and budget (due mid-February), and (2) the SEC Report (first draft due February 26, final draft due March 2).

Unified Plan

Steering Committee comments are being incorporated and a final draft is expected in February.

Municipal Light Plant (MLP)

Below are updates from the MLP.

LED Streetlights

WMLP is currently installing streetlights on the main roads. Will begin installing streetlights in the residential neighborhoods in February. WMLP has posted a map on its website that shows where installations have been done. <http://wellesley.ma.gov/961/LED-Streetlight-Project>
WMLP has not been able to find a streetlight at 2200 kelvin, as desired by the Natural Resources Council for streets abutting conservation land, which meets the requirements of the DOER grant. Agreement has been reached with NRC to leave the current high pressure sodium, which are 2200 kelvin.

Consultant Study of Conservation and Renewable Energy Opportunities

The WMLP selected Analysis Group as the consultant for the study. Principal on the study is Paul Hibbard, former head of the Department of Public Utilities under Deval Patrick when state was adopting and implementing the key carbon reduction legislation.

The WMLP has appointed an advisory group for development of the study. Members include Laura Olton, chair of the SEC, Robert Lamppa, the chief sustainability officer at Wellesley College, Ned Hall, whose career has been in power generation of all types, and Jim Gorman, a biotech entrepreneur with a strong interest in sustainable energy.

WMLP is hosting a public forum with Paul Hibbard on Tuesday, 2/13 at 7 p.m.

Home Energy Audits and Appliance Rebates

WMLP is partnering with National Grid on a new campaign to encourage home energy audits. As in the 2013 campaign, audits for homes heated with natural gas will be performed by a National Grid contractor. Homes heated with fuel oil or electricity will receive their audit from a WMLP contractor. Several improvements will be introduced in the WMLP audit compared with the 2013 campaign. The audit will include the same instant savings as the National Grid audit through an infrared assessment of air leaks, the installation of LED lights, a low flow water aerator and two advanced power strips, as well as information on the costs, rebates and benefits of a new natural gas heating system. The WMLP Board has approved the addition of rebates for the installation of programmable and wi-fi thermostats, such as Nest, to its rebate program. In addition to Energy Star appliances such as dehumidifiers, window air conditioners, refrigerators, washing machines and dish washers, rebates also are available for central air conditioners and ductless mini-split heat pumps.

Sustainable Wellesley

Sustainable Wellesley will run a campaign to sew old tee shirts and pillow cases into reusable bags.