

TOWN OF WELLESLEY



MASSACHUSETTS

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

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SEC Project Updates

March 1, 2018

Green Communities

On February 20 Marybeth submitted Wellesley's Green Communities designation grant application. We expect to hear back from the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) in the next couple of weeks. The application requests \$114,000 to fund an exterior light-emitting diode (LED) retrofit at the Department of Public Work (DPW) campus and \$23,250 to fund an energy audit of the Town's water/wastewater systems. FMD expects to contribute up to \$26,000 to cover possible contingencies on the exterior lighting project and DPW will provide \$12,250 to cover the remaining cost of the \$35,500 audit. DOER will set an "effective (start) date" in the next month or so and the first installment of DOER funds should arrive about three months after that effective date. Both FMD and DPW have the funding to commence these projects before DOER grant funds arrive in Wellesley.

At its meeting on Friday, the SEC will discuss next steps in the Green Community process.

Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Marybeth has completed all calculations and has entered and proofed all energy use data in the ClearPath software. Katy and Marybeth are analyzing the emissions results and following up on some questions regarding emissions factors and natural gas use.

Transportation Working Group

Ellen Gibbs, Chair of the Board of Selectmen, plans to convene a meeting with local colleges in April to explore whether a mutually beneficial collaboration on public bus transportation is possible.

The Working Group (WG) met with Michael D’Ortenzio, Judy Belliveau and Deane McGoldrick to learn more about the school transportation program. As a follow up:

- Deane will provide more feedback on the benchmarks in the Needham Transportation report.
- Ellen Korpi is following up with Deane and the DPW to explore a possible grant to explore installation of an XL Hybrid system in a van that Wellesley Public Schools will purchase this summer.
- Ellen will share draft talking points with the WG as WG members prepare to meet, individually, with School Committee members.

Following an introduction through Ellen Gibbs, the WG met with Kathy Vogel, a local resident who was the former manager of fixed bus routes for the Massachusetts Transit Authority, including the #8 bus that serves Wellesley. Her advice included:

- Develop a proposal, first, before engaging potential sponsors such as the MetroWest Regional Transit Authority.
- Follow the money – figure out what communities, including Wellesley, are paying for the current service we receive.

Food Recovery

On March 13, the Schools and SEC will host the CEO of Whitsons Corporation to showcase the best practices taking place in food recovery operations in Wellesley Public Schools. Best practices concern food rescue, food waste diversion, waste reduction, recycling and reusable packaging. We hope to encourage Whitsons to incorporate these practices at its other 125 customers.

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.

Marybeth will follow up with Jeff Azano-Brown next week to check in on the proposal to pilot food waste diversion at the Middle School.

High School Stadium Team Room and Hunnewell Field Restrooms

The RFP for the team rooms and the bathrooms near the aqueduct are due to go out imminently. The initial notice should appear in this week’s Townsman. The Request for Proposal for the other two bathrooms (those flanking either side of the Snack Shack) will go out in July/August once Annual Town Meeting has approved Town and Community Preservation Committee funding. Remaining items include a maintenance and upkeep plan and the procurement process, where the nitty-gritty details will be worked out.

Hardy, Hunnewell, Upham (HHU)

The Selectmen and School Committee will be requesting funds at a Special Town Meeting before June 1 to fund the next step in the Hunnewell project, a feasibility study. The School Building Committee, at Ellen Korpi's request, confirmed the commitment to include the SEC recommended language in the new Request for Qualifications (RFQ) on sustainability that was embedded in the August RFQ that was never issued. The Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) process resumes on April 1 (paused by MSBA because of staff capacity) and will be working towards a feasibility study of the Hardy/Upham project.

The Town announced that it is seeking to purchase 3 single-residence properties adjacent to the Hardy site.

The question of swing space during the projects is still not resolved. The three scenarios most likely to be considered are:

- Renovate St. Paul's school and lease it for swing space. Funding from the previous Master Planning Committee is being used for an initial review of what the renovation might cost and how much capacity St. Paul's can accommodate. It might be necessary to include modular classrooms in this plan.
- Build behind either Upham or Hardy while they are still operating and then use either the older school for swing space (two schools operating on one site) for Hunnewell students or redistrict to 6 schools after this school is built and use the mothballed school for swing space.
- Redistrict to six schools first and use the mothballed school, supplemented by modular classrooms, as the swing space.

Home Energy Improvements for Seniors

Home Energy Saving Seminars at the Tolles-Parsons Center of the Council on Aging will take place on March 8th and April 5th. These seminars aim to increase participation in the home energy assessments offered by the Wellesley Municipal Light Plan (WMLP) and National Grid. Seminar participants are encouraged to bring their home energy bills so they can compare their costs against a range of costs for very efficient to very inefficient homes. To make it easy to sign up for the home energy assessments, volunteers who have previously experienced audits and home energy improvements will be available as mentors to help seniors with the process.

The home energy saving seminar can be modified and adapted for use by other town organizations such as churches, civic clubs, etc. The WMLP prefers to move slowly on a broader outreach because the current lead time on home assessments is 10 weeks.

Fred Bunger will present this program to the SEC at its March 2 meeting.

Green Schools Summit

The Green Schools Summit on February 13 had wonderful attendance and representation from school administration, residents and from Town departments, boards and committees and organizations.

Unified Plan

The Unified Plan Steering Committee held its final scheduled meeting on February 27, to discuss establishing criteria for prioritizing capital projects. The “final” draft of the Unified Plan has been released for public comment, with comments due by mid-March. The intent is that the Planning Board and Board of Selectmen will approve the Plan at the end of March. A report to Town Meeting on the Plan will be included in the Advisory Book. New ad hoc groups may be formed to help with next steps.

The latest version of the Unified Plan is located at <https://wellesleyma.gov/1009/Unified-Plan>

Wellesley Municipal Light Plant

At its January 29 meeting, the WMLP Board adopted the following mission statement: “The Wellesley Municipal Light Plant ("WMLP") implements best business practices to protect the safety of our employees and the public, deliver environmentally sustainable and highly reliable electricity and telecommunication services at competitive rates, and provide financial and in-kind support to the Town. The WMLP conducts its affairs in a socially responsible and ethical manner, with respect for our many stakeholders.”

Almost 50 people attended the public forum held by the WMLP on Feb 13. Paul Hibbard, consultant, provided an outline of the study he is conducting on available options to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from electricity used in Wellesley. The slide presentation is available on the WMLP website and a tape of the 90-minute presentation and discussion is available through Wellesley Public Media. From their homepage, look under videos for Greenhouse Gas Reduction Forum.

Sunbug, the solar contractor chosen by the developer of 900 Worcester, has met with the WMLP to begin discussing the terms of a Purchase Power Agreement.

The WMLP has approved a purchase power agreement with the Wellesley Congregational Church (Village Church) and BrightView Energy, for the installation of solar panels on the church roof.

The WMLP circulated its first-ever newsletter to all households in February and submitted a report to Town Meeting for the Advisory Book on its initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Advisory Approval

On February 28, Advisory conducted its "supportive/unsupportive" votes for all the individual departments whose proposed FY19 budgets are over guidelines and/or adding FTEs. Advisory voted (11-2) in support of the SEC's budget.