



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

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SEC Project Updates

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Green Communities

Marybeth reached out to the Municipal Light Plant (MLP), Department of Public Works (DPW), and the Facilities Management Department (FMD) to inquire about their interest in including energy conservation measures (ECMs) in the Green Communities Designation Grant Application. The MLP has deferred to the other departments as MLP has a number of sustainability initiatives underway that are unlikely to qualify for Green Communities funding. In addition, the MLP has funds available to cover its projects, and recently received a grant for a joint campaign with National Grid. FMD is proposing an exterior lighting project at DPW and will provide cost and energy savings information in time for the Sustainable Energy Committee's (SEC's) November 29 meeting. The DPW is considering a water/wastewater audit and will provide details for the SEC's November 29 meeting.

On November 22, Wellesley received positive feedback from DOER on the Town's Green Communities application. Marybeth and Laura are following up on some minor questions and edits from DOER, and will submit materials on Friday, December 1.

Transportation Working Group

Joining the initial Working Group for the Transportation Initiative will be Marybeth, Judy Gertler and Amy Braz. Judy formerly worked for the US Transportation Department and chaired the Town's Local Transportation Study Committee in the 1970s. Amy formerly worked for the US Environmental Protection Agency. In addition, four members of Green Schools (Lara Crawford, Lisa Fico, Sue Morris and Nancy Braun) have offered to be a sub-Working Group to focus on reducing vehicle trips to the schools.

We have scheduled a meeting with Selectmen Ellen Gibbs and Planning Director Michael Zehner so that they can brief us on the recent history of the Town's transportation activities, what is happening now and what they hope to see happen. This will also be our entry point to tie our activities into the Unified Planning process. We hope this meeting will steer us towards our research steps for the next couple of months.

We have mentioned this initiative to Representative Alice Peisch and are in the process of setting up our meeting for her to brief us. We will also reach out to the MA Area Planning Commission ("MAPC") that has many transportation programs (and grants!).

In terms of measuring success, Judy has a background in analyzing transportation data and she is already looking at the data that MAPC has posted.

Unified Plan

In collaboration with Laura, Katy gave comments from the SEC on the Unified Plan Part IV and Part V. One overall comment: the text would be shorter and easier to follow if each chapter began with "Challenges" and "What the Community Said" and then proceeded with Goals and Strategies.

In Part IV, chapters 10 (Mobility and Circulation) and 11 (Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure), comments focused on increasing attention to the sustainability aspects of the topics. Note that chapter 10 proposes to create a large Mobility Committee which includes SEC representation. This Mobility Committee then is responsible for a number of initiatives on street and traffic policy and coordinating multimodal approaches to transportation.

In chapter 11, key comments included:

- Insert the development of sustainable development/building guidelines as a goal and include their use in the strategy for HHU implementation.
- Revise the recommendation to adopt the Envision rating system for evaluating infrastructure projects to read: "Adopt a comprehensive rating system, such as Envision,..."
- Expand the discussion of sustainable initiatives undertaken by the SEC with other Town departments.

In Chapter 12 (Sustainability, Resilience, and Green Practices) comments focused on:

- Correcting incomplete information on sustainable initiatives by the SEC and others (e.g. WasteWise and residential solar initiative);
- Disputing the conclusion that Town residents identify sustainability primarily with open space and only secondarily with carbon reduction (conclusion based on small sample size and not consistent with other information);
- Deleting a strategy to have the SEC bring a proposal that the Town commit to 100% renewable energy to Town Meeting; and
- Inserting the SEC role in a number of initiatives (e.g., implementation of Green Communities, incorporating sustainable practices in the Town's development standards and requirements for private development, development of sustainable procurement standards, and building standards for municipal construction).

Chapter 15 (Implementation Priorities) sets these priorities:

- Housing Choices (diversity and affordability);
- Transportation Choices (multimodal/Safe Streets approach, Mobility Policy Committee);
- Proactive economic development (attracting new business to Wellesley);
- Modernization of the zoning bylaw and design guidelines;
- Preservation and enhancement of environmental resources and performance while balancing natural and recreational open space; and
- More coordinated and strategic approach to Town Government
 - Here, the SEC asked for insertion of an action to have all Town government bodies incorporate sustainability into their mission statement and decision making using a checklist (development spearheaded by SEC) to identify the aspects relevant to their respective missions.

Hardy, Hunnewell, Upham

The Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the Hardy, Hunnewell, Upham (HHU) Feasibility Study remains on hold as we await word on whether the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) will choose to fund one or both of Wellesley's new schools. Unofficial word is expected within the next couple of weeks.

If the answer is no, the Board of Selectmen (BOS) has penciled in a February 5 Special Town Meeting to vote on authorizing the funds for the HHU Feasibility Study. The SEC's recommended language is included in the RFQ that will be used to hire project architect.

If the answer is yes, then the Town will have 270 days to work out their process with the MSBA. It is unclear how much additional work this will present for the SEC as the Committee continues to encourage sustainable development approaches.

Meanwhile, the Swing Space Working Group has continued to meet. They have approximately a dozen scenarios identified and a process by which they will reduce this number. Those scenarios that involve leasing the Hillside School in Needham will likely be eliminated because Needham has decided to use Hillside for its own swing space. Those options that involve leasing St. Paul's will be further evaluated by the firm SMMA, using funds remaining from the HHU Master Planning Committee project so that the SBC can clarify St. Paul's capacity and the expected extent of renovations. Other scenarios involve redistricting to six schools and using the seventh school, supplemented with other space from leasing or modulars, as the primary swing space. Building behind either Hardy or Upham, while these schools are in session, is also under consideration.

Food Recovery

We expect the final food rescue paper work at Babson and Wellesley Colleges to be signed this week so they can join Wellesley High School (WHS), Wellesley Middle School (WMS), Olin College, Bentley University, and Food for Free in participating in food rescue. We have also facilitated conversations between Mass Bay Community College and Food for Free so that they can develop a recipient program at Mass Bay.

On food waste management, the pilot residential food waste drop-off program at the Recycling and Disposal Facility (RDF) is generating collections at a rate of about one ton per week. After a survey of pilot program participants, Jeff Azano-Brown will determine if and how to recommend that this be a permanent program.

Ellen Korpi and Alison Cross continue to do outreach to food rescue organizations and to commercial entities to encourage surplus food rescue and food waste management. They are now engaged in conversations with several large senior living centers.

Alison and Marybeth continue to work with Green Schools members and Wellesley Public School communities with regard to school recycling and food recovery programs.

Town-Wide Communications Plan

Marybeth attended a meeting to update Town staff about the results of the Community Compact project to improve ways in which Town departments communicate with the public. The Town is considering the possibility of hiring a staff member to support Town government communications.

SEC Budget and Staff Support

Marybeth and Laura worked with the Finance Department to revise the SEC FY19 budget and prepare a budget narrative, and new hire form. Laura, Katy, Ellen, and Tom have been working with Human Resources and Blythe on including additional SEC staff support in the FY19 budget.