

TOWN OF WELLESLEY



MASSACHUSETTS

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

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SEC Project Updates

September 7, 2017

Hardy, Hunnewell, Upham

Ellen attended several School Building Committee, School Committee, and Swing Space Committee meetings over the summer and has kept the SEC closely involved with Hardy, Hunnewell, Upham (HHU) discussions. Marybeth attended HHU-related meetings since mid-August. On July 17, Ellen, Marybeth and Katy received a warm reception when they presented the SEC's HHU position paper to the School Committee. Marybeth followed up that presentation by providing Melissa Martin with all background materials, and annotations on some of the papers used in the SEC's analysis. The School Building Committee incorporated the SEC's recommendations and site selection criteria matrix in its Feasibility Study Request for Qualifications (RFQ). In early August, Ellen and Laura drafted a letter to the Townsman commenting on the HHU process, the School Committee's attention to sustainability, and the role of Sustainable Wellesley. With School Committee's blessing, this letter was to go to the Townsman when all relevant boards approved the RFQ. However, just as that approval was nearly assured, the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) announced that Wellesley was under consideration for inclusion in the MSBA grant process. Wellesley hosted an MSBA site visit, which on all accounts was a very successful meeting. MSBA representatives seemed extremely impressed with Wellesley's presentation and preparedness. The MSBA development has put most of the HHU process on hold until mid-December, when the MSBA decision is expected. Swing space planning, however, is one aspect of the HHU process that will move forward during the fall. Ellen and Marybeth have been attending swing space meetings and will continue to be involved with swing space and other aspects of the HHU process.

Green Communities

The Green Communities application to the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) is due October 31, 2017. Two significant components we are still working on are the ERP and the FEVP, discussed below. The SEC is aiming to submit a draft application to DOER for review between September 5 and October 6.

Energy Reduction Plan - Much of Marybeth's time this summer focused on the Green Communities application, especially identifying and correcting errors in the National Grid data contained in the Mass Energy Insight (MEI) software. Marybeth detected problems with the National Grid data during the spring and immediately asked MEI Technical Support to provide guidance on how best to address the errors. Although Marybeth checked in frequently with MEI for an answer, a definitive response did not come until early August when Marybeth attended an MEI training session (there are only two MEI trainings per year – both in summer). At the training, Marybeth had the chance to speak, in-depth, with both MEI and DOER representatives. They concluded that Wellesley would need to both find the remaining (and numerous) National Grid errors and correct them. As of September 2, Marybeth had submitted all corrections. When MEI updates its data in a couple of days, she will know if the last corrections went through successfully.

Marybeth is continuing to identify energy conservation measures (ECMs) that will help us close the gap from a 15% to 20% five-year reduction in energy use. As part of this work she has been examining the potential energy savings Wellesley might derive from the installation of wireless controls on street lights after the street light retrofit project. Marybeth has met with FMD to identify additional ECMs.

Marybeth is in the process of drafting the Energy Reduction Plan (ERP). The time-intensive MEI work has delayed our schedule. As soon as the ERP draft is complete, Marybeth will share it with the SEC and relevant departments for review. The SEC plans to present the ERP and FEVP to the BOS and School Committee for signature in mid-October.

Fuel Efficiency Vehicle Policy - Laura and Marybeth met with DPW and the Police Department to discuss the Fuel Efficiency Vehicle Policy (FEVP). Hearing department-specific practices regarding vehicles has proven very helpful. Laura and Marybeth plan to have similar meetings with the Fire Department and MLP. DPW offered to coordinate our vehicle inventory with the vehicle records that they keep. Laura has been checking and revising the vehicle inventory for the Green Communities application.

Area Colleges Food Donation Program

On Aug 7, Ellen and Alison met at Olin with Alex Davis (Babson Sustainability), Jim Drumheller (Olin Food Services – Rebecca's), Dorothea Von Herder (Wellesley College Sustainability), Rob Kilham (Olin's Food Services –Rebecca's), Chris Beling (USEPA) and Matt Delaney (Wellesley

Food Services), to discuss the coordination of food donation efforts among Babson, Olin, Wellesley College, and Wellesley Public Schools. Ryan Lee from Food for Free (FFF) was unable to join, but is interested in discussing a partnership. Food services staff from Babson and Olin are on board, and Olin has the capacity to store donated foods until FFF can pick up. The next step is a meeting with Ryan of FFF on Wednesday September 20th at 3pm, at Babson. Prior to that meeting, each participant will estimate their expected food donation volume. WPS has some concerns about their donations going to Olin before FFF. Wellesley College is working through their concerns about liability, etc. But, Alison will meet with Wellesley College separately before September 20.

Mass Bay Food Insecurity

Ellen has been talking with Liz Blumberg (Mass Bay) and Cynthia Scott (Wellesley Food Pantry) about the issue of Mass Bay's food insecurity situation. Liz has indicated that, based on a recent survey, 50% of the MassBay student population is food insecure. Ellen would like to incorporate something within the Area Colleges' food donation program that directs food to MassBay students. This potential project may be complicated as the transport to the Pantry (or other off-campus pick-up location) requires Health Department approval and raises the question of how we syphon off what goes to MassBay versus what FFF picks up and takes elsewhere. Ellen is hoping to meet with the Area Colleges group. as well as with Liz and Cynthia, either on September 11 or 18.

School Food Donation

Alison is working with the Health Department to iron out requirements for pre- and post-consumer food donation from the Sprague, Fiske, Bates, and WMS. The Health Department is asking for the addition of separate freezer units in the elementary school kitchens.

School Cafeteria Recycling

Marybeth is working with School administration, FMD, Green Schools, and interested parents to continue recycling and liquid diversion at Bates, Sprague, and Fiske. She is also working with parents and Green Schools members interested in implementing recycling at Hunnewell School and the Middle School.

Welcome to Wellesley Packet

Ellen and Alison met with Mike Pakstis, Jeff Azano-Brown, Raina McManus, and Stephanie Hawkinson to brainstorm on a mailer to new residents (renters or owners) that will let them know that Wellesley is a Green town and to encourage their volunteerism and involvement in programs such as recycling, Power to Choose, etc. This group will reconvene after Labor Day and further develop their plans for the mailer.