

SEC Project Updates
for
SEC Meeting on October 6, 2016

Meeting with College Presidents: The BOS met with the Wellesley College President on September 23, and will meet with the Babson College President on October 5. The SEC worked with Ellen Gibbs to prepare talking points for these meetings.

Presentation to Wellesley Friendly Aid: On September 20, the SEC presented a sampling of its projects to a joint meeting with the Green Collaborative and the Wellesley Friendly Aid Society. Ellen Korpi spoke about the SEC's work, in general, and the 4C Famer's initiative. Marybeth Martello presented on the Bates Cafeteria Recycling Project. Representatives of the NRC and RDF also presented. The presentations were well received. During the luncheon/networking session following the presentations, Ellen established a group of volunteers to start exploring the possibility of a Town garden project in the open area near the police station. Marybeth spoke with two middle school parents, new to Wellesley, who are eager to re-start the WMS Green Team. One of these parents has excellent experience with green team fund raising. Marybeth put the parents in touch with WMS contacts.

Unified Plan: The Steering Committee (consisting of only the board and committee representatives from Town government) met at the end of August. They discussed general hopes for the UP process, engaged with consultant, Stantec, and elected community members to the group, bringing the Committee to ~40 members in total. The Steering Committee will meet next in the first week of October to begin thinking about a process for thoughtful public engagement, and how to chart a course for its work. A leadership team may be elected at that session, now that the full complement of members is established.

900 Worcester Street: The process has moved onto the lease negotiation phase. The developer is exploring the feasibility of a solar installation along the eastern side wall of the building, in addition to solar on the roof.

Hunnewell, Hardy, and Upham: The SEC has been invited to present to the HHU Committee. The HHU meeting originally scheduled for October 6, will be rescheduled.

Town-wide Building Guidelines: The SEC reached out to FMD about collaborating on an exploration of Town-wide building guidelines. FMD provided the SEC with a copy of its latest guidelines, which include some elements of the Wellesley College Building Guidelines.

Power to Choose: Ellen Korpi coordinates the SEC's PTC Working Group. Group membership includes key WMLP staff and volunteers from Sustainable Wellesley, Green Schools and the WHS Climate Action Club. The Group is now developing updated, collateral materials. It is estimated that at least 500 new sign-ups will be needed to vault us to the number one participation level in the country. Marybeth is in talks with the Wellesley Education Foundation and the STEM Expo to try to develop a marketing strategy that reaches our target market, young families. Once the materials are complete, we will do a soft launch and hope to get 25 to 50 sign ups through one-off opportunities before the big push in the spring.

Green Communities: The SEC is working with Meghan Jop and Michael Zehner to identify candidate locations for as-of-right siting. Candidate locations now include the RDF, the Route 9 cloverleaf, the Route 9 National Guard site, 900 Worcester, MassBay, Williams Street, and the Tailby Lot. The RDF is interested in exploring the possible installation of solar canopies over the recycling parking and storage areas, and over the trash dumpster area. Michael Zehner has reached out to Town Counsel for examples of legal texts that we will need for a submission to Annual Town Meeting. The Green Communities group will reconvene in the next two weeks.

WasteWise: The SEC and NRC met with Jeff Azano-Brown to discuss WasteWise. Ellen Korpi, Marybeth Martello, and Stephanie Hawkinson, spoke with Jeff about how the SEC and NRC could support the RDF's efforts to increase residential recycling. In November/December, the SEC will work with RDF as they roll-out a "Capture Cardboard" initiative. An important goal of this initiative is to encourage residents to recycle all of the cardboard they accumulate during the holiday season.

Wellesley High School Climate Action Club: Ellen Korpi, Marybeth Martello, and Nancy Braun, of Green Schools, met with the Wellesley High School Climate Action Club on September 28. Climate Action is a re-branded version of WHS' former Green Team. Climate Action currently has a membership of about 25 students, and they are interested in helping the SEC with projects. One-hour volunteer opportunities are ideal. Possibilities include a Power to Choose information table at WHS, and WHS student helpers at the RDF during the "Capture Cardboard" campaign. Cort Bauer, of Climate Action, is interested in promoting the sustainability of Wellesley's large building projects. Climate Action also has a display case on the third floor of WHS. They are open to our ideas for populating that case.

Recycling at Bates Elementary School: Bates School successfully ran its recycling program for fifth grade lunches during the week of September 26. The enthusiastic, fifth grade Recycling Leadership Team designed the recycling stations and signage, helped guide their fellow fifth graders through the process, and led an all-school assembly to explain to Bates students and faculty the reasons for recycling, and to demonstrate how the cafeteria process works. Dr. Lussier and WPS' new Assistant Superintendent, Joan Dabrowski, attended the assembly and stayed after to chat about program details. Next week, Bates will continue recycling during fifth grade lunch and will introduce recycling during the Kindergarten and first grade lunch period. The slots for parent volunteers in the cafeteria during the week of October 3, filled up in a matter of hours. Wonderful support from Principal Toni Jolley, Bates custodian, Al Martignetti, the FMD, and a small, committed, volunteer organizing Committee (which includes NRC and Green Schools members) has been essential.

WHS Evolutions Program: The SEC is partnering with the WHS Evolutions Program, the NRC, and Wellesley Youth Commission to develop hands-on sustainability student projects, that directly link to SEC and NRC goals. The SEC has submitted student projects on solar canopies and composting for which students will research the basic elements of canopies and composting, common concerns and challenges associated with these sorts of projects, how nearby towns have addressed such concerns and challenges, and what lessons these towns have learned.

Green House Gas Inventory: Marybeth Martello is working with Suzanne Newark and Trevor Criswell, of WMLP, to calculate the Town's carbon footprint.