

The Watertown Environment and Energy Efficiency Committee met remotely via Zoom at 7:00 pm on Monday, January 27, 2025.

The following members and staff were present:

Ellen Menounos (Co-Chair), Jeanne Trubek (Co-Chair), Laurel Schwab (Sustainability Manager), Lauri Murphy, Brian Hebeisen, Bruce Gellerman, Marcia Ciro, Pat Rathbone, Matt Bacon, Fanxue Zheng

Others present: Laurel Schaidler, Mary Rose, Pam Phillips, Jacqui Gross, Wally Cole, Steve Steadman, Paul Scott

The meeting started with a quorum at 7:00 pm with Ellen Menounos presiding.

1. Announcements

- The next meeting of WE3C will be 2/24/25 at 7 pm on Zoom.
- Ellen announced the dates of WE3C meetings for year 2025. They are listed on the agenda.

2. Vote: Minutes from December were approved unanimously

3. Sustainability Manager Report (Laurel Schwab)

- a. We finally have our Home Performance Contractor, HomeWorks, on board. They will advise residents, develop a dedicated webpage, develop 2 mailings, one to property owners and one to landlords, participate in city events by tabling and other outreach activities. We will have a pre-vetted town-approved contractor to recommend to residents – but people may choose whatever contractor they would like – to do home energy assessments. They do provide heat-pump installation but that is not part of our agreement.
- b. I mentioned previously about our agreement with Tufts University Urban and Environmental Planning program. We will have a team of about 5 Masters students to work on development of pocket open-space parks this semester.
- c. The city has hired the consultant STANTEC to do a city-wide mobility study. This is funded by an ARPA allocation. The study is being led by Transportation Planner Zeke Mermel. Laurel Schwab will be involved. The study should conclude by the end of this calendar year.
- d. We continued our discussion of the ordinance drafting process. Laurel showed some slides outlining the proposed process and giving reasons for the proposal, and we discussed whether we and the public would have an adequate opportunity for input. This proposal is specific to WE3C as opposed to a city-wide proposal. The document Laurel prepared is attached and will be sent with the minutes.

4. Discussion with Matt Bacon, Recycling Program Manager at the DPW

Matt joined the staff in September, 2024. He has a degree in Political Science from Keene State College and worked in recycling at Keene State for four years as a student, then was their recycling program manager for five years. He moved back to Boston, worked for Black Earth Composting, then came to Watertown. We asked him what we can do to help him in his work. The most immediate activity that can use our help is a big recycling event on April 19 at the parking lot of the Jewish Community Day School on Stanley Avenue. This event will involve a compost giveaway, collecting of mattresses, secure shredding, and collection of other items for recycling. He said there would be table space so we should have an informational table at this event.

There is \$6000 to build a swapshop. It will need volunteers to staff it. He is getting a shipping container to house it and it will be at the recycling center.

We discussed the costs of recycling, most of which are in the hauling process. We also discussed dehumidifiers – there is a rebate available if you switch to a more efficient one.

5. Vote: Motion to adjourn at 8:30 approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Jeanne Trubek

