

The Watertown Environment and Energy Efficiency Committee met remotely via Zoom at 7:00 pm on Monday, November 25, 2024.

The following members and staff were present:

Ellen Menounos (Co-Chair), Jeanne Trubek (Co-Chair), Laurel Schwab (Sustainability Manager), Lauri Murphy, Brian Hebeisen, Marcia Ciro, Bruce Gellerman

Staff Guests: Mia Kania, Fangxue Zheng

Absent: Silas Fyler, Pat Rathbone

Others present: Ernesta Krackiewicz, Hannah Goldberg, Susan LaDue, Pam Phillips, Wally Cole, Steve Steadman, Jolly Tager

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

1. Announcements

- The next meeting of WE3C will be 12/16/24 at 7 pm on Zoom.
- **Vote:** Minutes from 10/21/24 were approved unanimously.
- We will continue to use the Zoom AI Companion and Zoom transcripts for help with writing the minutes in future meetings. However we must have a designated host in order to record the meeting so we cannot use these tonight. Laurel will look into becoming host along with Silas.

2. Sustainability Manager Report (Laurel Schwab)

The inaugural Green Communities Summit was held last Sunday. Watertown was recognized for reducing emissions by over 40% since the start of the Green Communities.

The Climate and Energy Subcommittee of City Council held a review with Silas and Laurel about progress in implementing the Climate and Energy Plan. Their focus last Monday was on transit. The Tufts Urban and Environmental Master program is sending a small group of students to Watertown to develop design plans for pocket parks, focusing on more access to open space. The meeting presentation from this update will be available on the Resilient Watertown website.

The Miyawaki planting Day on October 6 was very successful. Several hundred people showed up to help with the planting. People enjoyed the project greatly. We are working on getting temporary signage. The DPW is taking responsibility for caring for the new forest (watering, protecting).

We are in the planning stages of offering a Sustainability Resource Fair at the Commander's Mansion in May 2025.

3. Our Guests We have two new additions to our sustainability team.

Mia Kania is our new Sustainability Planner.

Fangxue Zheng is our new Energy Advocate

Mia: I grew up in Massachusetts. I previously worked for Sasaki as a Planner. The thoroughness of the Climate and Energy Plan got me excited from the beginning.

I'm currently working on a sustainable procurement policy for across-the-board municipal procurement. We hope to implement it in the first quarter of 2025.

Fangxue: I previously worked for a nonprofit working on energy efficiency for small businesses and residential buildings. I studied political economy in graduate school and worked on many stakeholder meetings. It is important to reach out to a wide group of people.

I am currently working on promotion of the Mass Save program. On December 7 we are having a heat pump project which will include a speaker from HEET. We want to recruit heat pump ambassadors from the community. The group will be an interface with the community.

4. Discussion

We have until December 10 to make comments concerning ARE's development at Watertown Mall. The overview has been approved; from now it goes by phasing. People who wish to comment should do so soon. We had a lively discussion of development, biotech, the future of transportation, and our authority. It was pointed out that unless an action is mandated, we are just hoping that developers will choose to do it. It was suggested that we get a summary of ordinances – those in place, those proposed, those needed – for our next meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted by Jeanne Trubek