

The Watertown Environment and Energy Efficiency Committee met at 7:00 pm on Monday, June 17, 2024. This was a remote meeting via Zoom.

The following members were present: Jeanne Trubek, Ellen Menounos, Brian Hebeisen, Pat Rathbone, Silas Fyler (Energy Manager)

Absent: Lauri Murphy, Marcia Ciro

Staff present: Laurel Schwab (Environmental Planner)

Others present: Larry Raskin, Drew Rollert, Susan LaDue, Steve Steadman, Pam Phillips, Connie Henry

The meeting started with a quorum at 7:05 pm with Jeanne Trubek presiding.

1. Vote: Minutes from 05/20/24 were approved unanimously.

2. Announcements

- There will be a follow-up meeting to the ongoing discussion of the plans for Watertown Square on Thursday, June 27 at 6:00 pm at the Middle School.
- **The next meeting of WE3C will be Monday, July 15 at 7 pm.**

3. Energy Manager Report (Silas Fyler)

- City is trying to completely comply with the Climate Leadership Community program (due by 7/25). (DOER is considering extending the deadline because few towns are ready to do this)
For this, city must commit to trying to buy battery operated vehicles for all vehicles under 8500 lb gross vehicle weight where it is feasible. This should be passed at the next city council meeting on July 9.
- The City Council is also voting on a decarbonization road map to get all city municipal buildings to be net neutral at this meeting. Once these are completed we completely comply with the Climate Leadership Program.

4. Sustainability Manager Report (Laurel Schwab)

- The Sustainability department has a summer intern, Shane, who will be working through August.
- The plans for a Miyawaki Forest at the Lowell School are progressing. On Saturday, August 3, there will be an opportunity for community involvement community involvement. The actual forest planting will take place on October 26 at the Lowell at 10:00 a.m. October 27 is the rain date.
- Laurel and Silas have interviewed applicants for the full-time Energy Advocate position.
- Her office is putting out health/safety information to help people deal with the heat.
The library typically serves as a cooling center.
- Friends of Bees is hosting the LifeFriendly Garden Tour on June 23.
- Resilient Watertown will be tabling at the Farmers Market on the 4th Wednesday of each month.
- Anya is no longer working for the city and Laurel is interviewing people to find a replacement.

5. Recruitment of new members

We have two openings on this committee. Please submit applications to the City Manager's office if you are interested in becoming a member.

6. Discussion of the consequences of the Open Meeting Laws

Jeanne, Ellen and Brian reported on the discussion they had with the city lawyer, Mark Reich, about the open meeting laws.

Jeanne's take on the meeting: a working group cannot meet to make decisions without posting the meeting and agenda openly. However, a member of WE3C can meet with people in another organization (such as WFCC) provided the WE3C member is clear that they are in that meeting as a private citizen and not representing WE3C.

Brian's take: add the qualification that if you are working on something that has been directed by WE3C (for example, BERDO) you cannot deliberate on this topic or participate in the discussion unless it is an open meeting. We can discuss Climate and Energy Plan but not deliberate on things that we have been mandated to do. It is okay to present information but not opinions.

Ellen's take: You must be clear about in what role you are participating. Then if you wish to bring something back to WE3C to be discussed there, you may.

Brian: we can participate in discussions of climate and energy, but the Net Zero Group was mandated by the city and by WE3C to create a BERDO. Deliberation on that must be in an open and posted meeting.

Perhaps it would be faster and easier to have outside community organizations create the necessary ordinances. Laurel said this seems like trying to avoid openness and accountability in government and that is not a good idea.

7. Updates.

Tree ordinance is still under consideration. One DPW staff member who had been quite involved left
Climate Outreach:

Tabling every 4th Wednesday of each month at the Farmers' Market, with a different topic each month. There will be a button on the main homepage so people can access it easily.

Resilient Watertown information moving to city website; that will be completed by end of June.

Anya (recycling coordinator) has departed; Laurel is interviewing new candidates.

BERDO

we have to analysis of three types of buildings so that when the council asks about that we can answer.

City has asked for a version of regulations before going before City Council; we are working on that.

8. New business: how to make note taking easier

Maybe use AI Companion to help. We can use the video.

9. Motion to adjourn passed, meeting adjourned at 8:30

Respectfully submitted by Jeanne Trubek