

**The Watertown Environment and Energy Efficiency Committee met remotely via Zoom at 7:00 pm on Monday, February 24, 2025.**

**The following members and staff were present:**

Ellen Menounos (Co-Chair), Jeanne Trubek (Co-Chair), Silas Fyler, Laurel Schwab (Sustainability Manager), Lauri Murphy, Bruce Gellerman, Pat Rathbone, Marcia Ciro

**Absent:** Brian Hebeisen

**Others present:** Ernesta Krackiewicz, Hannah Goldberg, Pam Phillips, Wally Cole, Steve Steadman, Laurel Schaidler

**The meeting started with a quorum at 7:00 pm with Jeanne Trubek presiding.**

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## **1. Announcements**

- The next meeting of WE3C will be 3/17/25 at 7 pm on Zoom.
- Wally Cole has applied to be a member of WE3C.

## **2. Vote: Minutes from January were approved unanimously (Motion–Pat, Second–Lauri)**

## **3. Energy Manager Report (Silas Fyler)**

The draft BERDO (Building Emissions Reduction Disclosure Ordinance) is with City Council. It goes to Rules & Ordinances Subcommittee on 3/10/25. This Ordinance would apply to buildings 20,000 sf or larger. Silas was commended on his presentation to City Council.

## **4. Sustainability Manager Report (Laurel Schwab)**

The first ever Resilient Watertown Eco-Fest will take place on Saturday, May 10 from 11am-2pm at the Commander's Mansion. WE3C will have a table.

Laurel has an upcoming meeting with Tom Brady, the new Director of Public Works. Tom worked for Watertown years ago as the tree warden, then he put in many years working for Brookline, and now he's back in Watertown as DPW Director. Laurel plans to update him on Tree Ordinance efforts to date.

Ellen will circulate the WE3C ordinance drafting document that Laurel presented at the last meeting.

## **5. Presentation:**

PFAS--where they come from, their health impacts, and what we can do about them.

By Laurel Schaidler, Senior Scientist at Silent Spring Institute in Newton and Watertown resident.

Silent Spring is an independent, non-profit research organization dedicated to identifying the links between everyday chemicals and health, with a focus on women's health and breast cancer.

PFAS is a class of over 14,000 chemical compounds. They are the so-called "forever chemicals" that resist degradation. PFAS are being found at elevated levels. There are now some state and federal rules limiting their use. But they are still found in many everyday products (including the popular Oral B glide dental floss.)

This website: [www.pfas-exchange.org](http://www.pfas-exchange.org) is a good source of information about PFAS research. See attached presentation for more details.

The committee thanked Laurel Schaidler for her excellent presentation, and then posed the question of How might we address the problem of PFAS pollution locally. Possibly a sustainable materials procurement policy, or a film screening at the library.

#### **6. New Business**

Pat asked about the Library of Things at the Watertown Free Public Library. How many energy efficient gadgets do they have? Induction cooktops etc. Pat is researching this topic.

#### **7. Vote: Motion to adjourn at 8:30 approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Menounos