



## Watertown City Council

Administration Building

149 Main Street

Watertown, MA 02472

Phone: 617-972-6470

### Report of the Committee on Climate and Energy January 9, 2024

The committee convened on Tuesday January 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm in the City Council Office. Present were Tony Palomba, chair; Caroline Bays, vice chair; and John Airasian, secretary. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct two interviews for reappointment to the Watertown Environment and Energy Efficiency Committee (WE3C).

The meeting was called to order and the first candidate interviewed was Brian Hebeisen. Mr. Hebeisen stated he has been on the committee for 14 years and felt the committee had accomplished a great deal in that time. Councilor Bays thanked him for his active role and all he has done for climate regarding the new schools and asked what he or WE3C is planning on next. Mr. Hebeisen stated in the short term, they have been working on the BERDO ordinance (Building and Emission Reduction Disclosure Ordinance). This will be presented to the committee soon. For the long term, it is to continue to monitor the Climate Action Plan and adapt or adjust as needed as new technologies come along. Councilor Palomba asked about his thoughts on internal transportation. Mr. Hebeisen mentioned that the transportation subcommittee of WE3C has pushed for a study to be done as it is a hard topic to define needs. He also mentioned micro transit has been a priority since the city can have direct control over it.

**Action Item:** Councilor Bays made a motion, with a second from Councilor Airasian to recommend that the City Council confirm the reappointment of Brian Hebeisen to WE3C with a term expiring November 15, 2026. The motion passed 3-0

The second interview was with Ellen Parker Menounos who is currently co-chair of WE3C and is actively looking for more members of the group. Over the course of her first term, she took the time to listen and learn how the committee works. Some accomplishments she is proud of are the continued work towards keeping commitments of the Climate Action Plan on track as well as helping Laurel and her support staff. Ms. Menounos stated there is a great team atmosphere and a handful of working groups that mesh well together.

**Action Item:** Councilor Bays made a motion, with a second from Councilor Airasian to recommend that the City Council confirm the reappointment of Ellen Parker Menounos to WE3C with a term expiring November 15, 2026. The motion passed 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15.

Minutes Prepared by John Airasian.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Anthony Palomba,  
Chair

Caroline Bays,  
Vice Chair

John M. Airasian,  
Secretary