

Minutes: Monday, May 19, 2025 (draft).

The Watertown Environment and Energy Efficiency Committee met remotely via Zoom at 7:00 pm on Monday, May 19, 2025.

The following members and staff were present:

Ellen Menounos (Co-Chair), Jeanne Trubek (Co-Chair), Silas Fyler (energy manager), Laurel Schwab (Sustainability Manager), Wally Cole, Marcia Ciro, Lauri Murphy, Pat Rathbone.

Absent: Brian Hebeisen, Bruce Gellerman

Others present: Drew Rollert (Wadda Hoppah), Larry Raskin, Ernesta Krackiewicz, Anita Roy Dobbs

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

1) Announcements

- Tomorrow, May 20, at 5:00 in City Council chambers, is the next update of progress on the Climate and Energy Plan before the Council Committee on Climate and Energy.
- The next meeting of WE3C will be 6/16/25 at 7 pm on Zoom.
- The Sustainable Streets Tour will be Saturday 5/31/25. This is a walking tour of homes where the owners have made substantial clean-energy upgrades. You will be able to speak to the people about their experiences installing and living with clean energy.
- Drew Rollert from Wada Hoppah gave us an update on our future clean electric water transport to downtown Boston. The first shuttle will be ready this summer and the larger shuttle will be available soon. Wada Hoppah won the International 2024 Gustave Trouve Award for electric Commercial vessels in Development
- The next meeting of WE3C will be on June 16 at 7:00 via zoom.

2) Vote: Minutes from April were approved unanimously (Motion–Jeanne, Second–Pat)

3) Energy Manager Report (Silas Fyler)

- Watertown was certified by MA DOER as a Climate Leader Community on Friday, May 2, 2025. This is an upgrade from the Green Community designation-not just energy efficiency but also carbon reduction. Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll and Energy Resources Commissioner Elizabeth Mahoney spoke in front of the new Watertown High School to recognize the communities receiving this certification. Watertown is one of the 19 communities to receive this new certification for efforts reducing emissions and maximizing the efficiency of buildings and transportation. This was a result of fulfilling a series of 6 requirements aimed at reducing emissions and building efficiencies.
- The Police department just got its first EV Patrol Car (a Mustang). It will get three more this summer. They are putting 4 EV chargers for these at the police station. Ridgelawn Cemetery's oil burner is being replaced by a heat pump.

4) Sustainability Manager Report (Laurel Schwab)

- The Ecofest on Saturday, May 10 was a success despite the weather. We had 20 vendors, 5 community organizations and 5 city organizations, including the high school environmental group. It was fairly well attended.
- The next climate plan implementation update to the city council committee is tomorrow. We do this about every 6 months and the report is posted.

- A weatherization webinar is being held May 21 in partnership with Homeworks.
- There will be a sustainability streets tour on May 31 from 2-4.
- The on-street EV charging study is getting underway
- Last week City Manager Proakis was part of the ceremonial signing of an updated Mayors' Climate Compact agreement sponsored by MAPC. This is the first time Watertown has been part of the climate taskforce of MAPC.

5) Working group updates.

Transportation: Jeanne and Ernesta both participated in Stakeholder discussions for Zeke Mermel's Mobility Study. Jeanne's group discussed expanding the MBTA service to Watertown and also microtransit while Ernesta's focused on bike/ped. Marcia raised a question about the current shuttles on Pleasant St. The funding is from the City, with some contributions from our partner office, life sciences & residential developments along the corridor.

Climate Outreach: Has been working on the sustainable street tour for May 31. There's a map posted for this event. There will be some presentations at these homes.

PFAS event: This will be held at the Library on September 28. We can promote this during Faire on the Square which is September 13.

6) Vote: Motion to adjourn at 8:30 approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Jeanne Trubek

addendum: The meeting was recorded and is available at <http://vodwcatv.org/CablecastPublicSite/show/3927?site=3> in case you missed the meeting or want to re-experience it. Thank you Silas and Patrick.