

Minutes: Monday, June 16, 2025

The Watertown Environment and Energy Efficiency Committee met remotely via Zoom at 7:00 pm on Monday, June 16, 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, Brian Hebeisen.

Absent: Bruce Gellerman

Others present: Larry Raskin, Hannah Goldberg, Susan LaDue, Steve Steadman

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

1) Announcements

- We will try to publish the minutes sooner after each meeting.
- Tomorrow there is an appreciation event at the Commander's Mansion for Board and Committee members, 6 pm
- PFAS event will be held at the Library on September 28. We can promote this during Faire on the Square which is September 13.
- The next meeting of WE3C will be 7/21/25 at 7 pm on Zoom.
- Marcia has volunteered to help with minutes in the fall. AI assistant on Zoom is very helpful.

2) Vote: Minutes from May were approved unanimously (Motion–Ellen, Second–Silas)

3) Energy Manager Report (Silas Fyler)

- Silas shared the following video link showing progress at the new high school:
[Inside Watertown's New High School: A Cutting-Edge Space for Hands-On Learning - YouTube](#)
- School year ends tomorrow. Summer is a busy time while students are out of the schools.
- At the former Parker School across the river, the 2nd floor is being remodeled. The Planning Department will move in late December.
- DPW is getting a new roof and new solar panels which the City will own. Roof work was required in order to be in compliance with specialized stretch code. Solar panels on roof were removed, panels going back on in late fall. There will be more panels and 2 canopies out front. They will be owned by the City. 'Select' is the solar vendor.

4) Sustainability Manager Report (Laurel Schwab)

- The Sustainable Streets Tour took place on Sat 5/31/25. This was a walking tour of homes where the owners have made substantial clean-energy upgrades.
- July 16 (Wed), the Sustainability team will table at Farmer's Market.
- The on-street EV charging study is getting underway, survey is now live:
<https://form.jotform.com/251285013036144>
- The City has started charging for EV charging, it is no longer free.

5) Working group updates and discussions.

PFAS event. 1-5 is the maximum slot, so 1-3 should be enough time at the library. Laurel Schaidler of Silent Spring will be talking about forever chemicals. We will look into having it filmed by WCATV. We should have literature, sign up sheet, etc. We should line up people who can get there early and stay after, to help with set up and break down.

Transportation. No update since last meeting.

BERDO. Invites have gone out to building owners to review with them. This might be a single meeting next month.

Climate Outreach. No update since last meeting.

Lighting. A question was posed about whether any working group would want to focus on the City lighting code. Lighting is a Zoning issue. Comment: 'There is currently a lighting code that doesn't work for anyone.' Turning lights off at night is an easy way to save energy and reduces light pollution for neighbors etc. This may be improved with the passing of BERDO.

Gas powered lawn equipment. This is another potential working group topic. Per Laurel, we will talk about ordinance priorities at the next meeting.

6) Vote: Motion to adjourn at 8:20 approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Menounos