

Draft WE3C minutes 12/15/14, 7:00 p.m., 3rd Floor Conf. Room, Town Hall

Present: Ken Mirvis (chair), Stephane Acel-Green (co-chair), Brian Hebeisen, Matt Riegert, Zach Zevitas, Mike Anctil. Guests: Dave Beavers & Ryan Fahey (Cadmus Group), and Malcolm Bliss (NSL liaison)

Absent: Meredith Fields, Lauri Murphy

1. Minutes for 10/20/14 meeting were not approved. Tabled to next meeting.
2. Comprehensive Plan update: Stephane recently spoke with Councilor Vincent Piccirilli and explored with him the feasibility of taking suggestions from the Comprehensive Plan energy chapter and turning them into zoning ordinances.
3. New MassCEC Grant Study - Roof Top and Parking Lots for PV: Ken introduced Dave Beavers and Ryan Fahey from the Cadmus Group, who are both Watertown residents, and who have been notified that Watertown has been awarded the \$25,000 MassCEC grant for a feasibility study of municipal solar projects. The committee has not received official notification of the award from MassCEC or the Town. Dave urged the committee to move quickly with the project since grant funding will quickly depreciate over the next year, and suggested that a contract for a Town solar project(s) be signed by the end of CY 2015 to take advantage of funding available. Cadmus's work will include documenting the age of roofs in the town, but Dave suggested that canopies, in both public and private parking lots, will probably be the most logical locations for future systems. Cadmus will also assist the Town with writing an RFP for vendors, as well as negotiating with those vendors and ultimately making a selection. Dave suggested that a goal could be to save the Town \$100,000 annually through such system(s), which would most likely be owned/operated under a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA).
4. Shared solar and community net metering: Dave Beavers presented an overview of how community solar projects operate and take advantage of "virtual net metering." A project in Brewster, MA (My Generation Energy, Inc.) was presented as a model for a community solar project. A private project in Harvard, MA was also presented, which is fully owned by the participants, but was not recommended for various reasons. A business venture, Clean Energy Collaborative (CEC), has completed projects in NGRID-MA territory, and is taking reservations for a project in NSTAR-NEMA territory, although the site is "TBD." A community solar project in the NSTAR-NEMA territory (which Watertown is part of) is challenging due to the lack of open space available.
5. Green Communities Celebration: Ken, Brian, Lauri, and Kevin Boyle attended the December 3rd Green Communities Celebration at the State House. One take-away was that Watertown must demonstrate a 20% reduction of greenhouse gases (GHG) in the past 5 years to maintain Green Communities status. The details of the GHG emissions accounting were unknown. Brian is to follow up, Matt offered to assist,

and Zach offered his students to assist as well.

6. Energy manager: Ken reported news from Steve Magoon, Assistant Town Manager, that the position was offered to a candidate and the position was not accepted. The position is being reposted by the Town.
7. Next Step Living: Stephane has been working closely with Malcolm and Aaron Dushku, Town Councilor, about addressing NSL complaints in Watertown. The goal is to reach out to NSL customers independently to seek their feedback. Aaron is planning to assist Stephane with drafting a survey for Watertown NSL clients.

Next meeting: Mon, Jan 12, 7 p.m.

Meeting schedule: January 12, February 9, March 23, April 13, May 18, June 15, July 13