

**Watertown Environment and Energy Efficiency Committee
Meeting Minutes February 27, 2017**

OPENING:

The February 27th, 2017 meeting of *Watertown's Environment and Energy Efficiency Committee* (WE3C) was opened by Ed Lewis at 7:05pm in Town Hall's third floor conference room.

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members & Guests (in alphabetical order)
Andrew Airasian
Charlies Bering
Emma Clement
Meredith Fields
Brian Hebeisen
Lauri Murphy
Meghan O'Connell
Matt Riegert
Watertown Staff Liaison
Edward Lewis – Energy Manager

AGENDA:

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Review of the WE3C Charter
3. Overview of Town Sustainability Activities
4. Discussion of previous WE3C projects & potential new ones
5. Energy Manager Report
6. New Business

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1) Welcome and introductions:

In attendance was a mix of long term WE3C members along with several people who have either applied to be on the Committee or have expressed an interest in joining. Introductions revealed a strong mix of synergistic skill sets and interest in all aspects of sustainability.

2) Review of the WE3C Charter:

The Town's Charter for the WE3C committee was reviewed, along with a brief review of Open Meeting Law and Town e-mail policies and procedures.

3) Overview of Town Sustainability Activities:

An overview of the Town Sustainability activities was presented, topics covered included:

- History of the WE3C
- Watertown Green Community process, requirements, benefits and results
 - 14% reduction in municipal energy usage and Green House Gas (GHG) emissions since Watertown became a Green Community
- Grants and Rebates received by Watertown
 - \$912,497 in Energy/Sustainability related grants/incentives to date
- Watertown Renewable Energy Generation
 - Solar PV on Municipal Buildings – DPW, Police Station and High School arrays
 - Solarize Watertown, Neighborhood Solar and WISE – residential PV array deployment
 - Reduces GHG emissions over 400 tons CO₂e per year
- Watertown Energy Efficiency Improvements
 - Municipal Performance Contract
 - Upgrades to 14 Municipal buildings
 - All costs paid for by energy & maintenance savings
 - Town will save \$1.8M over 20 year contract
 - LED Streetlight retrofit – Phase 1
 - Reduces GHG emissions 140 tons per year
 - Saves \$30K in annual electricity costs
 - Watertown Initiative to Save Energy (WISE)
 - Facilitated over 600 residential energy assessments
 - Reduces GHG emissions 412 tons per year

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- Watertown Energy Efficient Buildings
 - New Police Station
 - Onsite PV generation, geothermal heating & cooling
 - Design Standards & Guidelines
 - Promotes sustainable designs and environmental responsibility for development and redevelopment in Watertown
- Watertown Energy Manager
 - Goals and sustainability activities
 - LED Streetlight retrofit – Phase 2
 - Will reduce GHG emissions 336 tons per year
 - Will reduce electric & maintenance costs over \$100,000 per year
 - Performance Contract
 - Ensure contractually guaranteed energy reductions are achieved
 - Facilities
 - Optimize building operation
 - Specify energy efficient equipment
 - Outreach
 - Interactive School teaching module
 - Lunch & Learn with the Energy Manager scheduled at Senior Center
- Reviewed Watertown's Sustainability Webpage

4) Discussion of previous WE3C projects & potential new ones:

Previous WE3C projects / activities were reviewed including:

- Solarize Watertown
- Watertown Initiative to Save Energy (WISE)
- Green Community application
- Community outreach and education
- Municipal PV Arrays
- Applying for grants - including:
 - LED streetlights – Phase 1
 - Solarize Watertown
 - Municipal PV Evaluations
 - Energy Manager

Significant discussion revolved around potential new projects, these included:

- Residential Electrical Aggregation (Community Choice Electrical Procurement)
 - Allows residents the choice to purchase residential electrical power under an aggregation plan. Provides volume purchasing power and can provide significantly greener energy than supplied from the utility. Provides GHG reduction opportunities on a Town wide basis.

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ACTIONS:

Ed L. to place on March meeting agenda

Ed L. to contact MAPC for information / materials / support regarding their assistance for residential aggregation, inquire about a guest speaker for the March meeting.

Ed L. / committee – determine estimated GHG reduction per % increase in green power in Watertown residential electric supply.

- Significant interest in revisiting the High School PV array, including:
 - Harvesting of system REC's
 - Get inverter data summaries back online
 - Tour / overview of the system
 - Reengaging as a teaching tool

ACTION: Brian H. to lead effort with assistance from the committee

- Interest in touring energy efficient features of the Police Station

ACTION: Ed L. to investigate a facilities tour, perhaps combined with holding a future WE3C meeting there.

Following are items that came up at the meeting as topics for discussion at future meetings and / or potential WE3C projects:

- Concern over Watertown's preparation / resiliency regarding climate change / rising sea levels
- Observation that many of Watertown's achievements in Sustainability are not widely known, suggestion that the committee help with outreach via social media, TAB, etc.
- Deployment of EV charging stations in Town
- Potential deployment of EV for a Town vehicle
- Discussion on how intelligent garden design / vegetation plans can help sequester carbon and help with storm water control
- Green roofs
- More in-depth understanding of Town Design Standards & Guidelines
- How can the Committee help the MA Legislative process for Sustainability issues and in particular help to remove barriers to Community Solar access for all

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- How can the Committee help to reach and assist underserved demographics (low income, renters, and seniors) for energy efficiency programs and solar access?

7. **Energy Manager Report** – incorporated in Town sustainability overview

8. **New Business / Scheduled Energy Committee Meetings:**

Unless otherwise noted meetings are held at the Town Hall 3rd floor conference room.
The public is welcome at all meetings.

March 20th – 7:00PM

April 24th – 7:00PM

May 15th - 7:00PM

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:28pm.

Minutes submitted by: Edward Lewis, February 28, 2017