

Minutes: Town of Watertown Environment & Energy Efficiency Committee,
October 15, 2018, 7 p.m., 3rd Floor Conference Room, Town Hall

Minutes

The meeting was opened by chair Meredith Fields at 7:02 p.m. Introductions were made. Attending members and citizens: Ed Lewis (Town Energy Manager), Meredith Fields, Lauri Murphy, Jeanne Trubek, Brian Hebeisen, Emma Clement, Pat Rathbone, Janet Buck, Leo Martin, Jamie O'Connell, Jacqui Gross, and Andrew Airasian.

7:03 Announcements

- Wednesday 10/18 6 P.M. next School Building Committee meeting in Council Chambers
- Monday 10/22 7:30 P.M. Town Council subcommittees on Economic Development/Planning and Public Works meet in Lower Hearing Room to discuss Watertown Climate and Energy Master Plan (WCEMP) proposal

7:04 Energy Manager's Report

- At the Oct. 10th Planning Board meeting new zoning ordinances with requirements for LEED Silver certifiability town-wide and solar deployment for new commercial construction were reviewed. The draft ordinances were passed to Town Council (TC) for a vote with a positive recommendation from the Planning Board. The Council meeting to review this has not been scheduled yet
- Watertown Electricity Choice (WEC) update: Ed sent a memo to TC stating that an energy provider has not been selected yet, but probably will be in early Jan. 2019. No response yet from Mass DPU regarding progress of their review of our application.
- TC requested and received an update on electrical vehicle charging station installation. An Eversource program may subsidize trenching/cable run work, allowing us to install four stations for the cost of two.
- There is a possibility of installing a further six charging stations if a grant is forthcoming out of the VW settlement.
- Green Communities Act funding for LED lighting: hockey rink will be first project, to include lighting controls.

7:12 WE3C Climate and Energy Master Plan Proposal (WCEMP)

- Meredith reviewed history of the development of the proposal and distributed copies. The proposal involves 3 parts: a greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory for the

town, a comprehensive climate change vulnerability assessment (CCVA), and development of a plan based on the results of the GHG inventory and the CCVA.

- Discussion of using Somerville's Greenhouse Gas Inventory and its Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment as examples. These are public documents, searchable online and available on the city website.

- Town Conservation Commission recently voted on a recommendation to TC to investigate participation in Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program.

7:29 Vote for the WE3C to formally endorse Watertown's WCEMP efforts, and for integration of WCEMP into Comprehensive Plan, passed unanimously.

- Discussion of requesting authorization from TC to solicit proposals for a draft WCEMP.

- Ed to investigate acquisition of Somerville's RFP as a template, and to ask MAPC for a template.

7:38 Solar Zone ordinance and expanded LEED Silver ordinance proposals

- Discussion of WE3C endorsement of proposals recently approved by the planning board to require LEED Silver certifiability/certification and a solar requirement for new development projects >10,000 SF.

- Discussion of LEED Silver "certifiable" vs. "certified". What mechanisms are in place to ensure continued adherence to the LEED requirements? Will building owners have to adhere to new standards as LEED Silver requirements evolve?

- Solar readiness is already required for such new development projects; it does not always lead to solar installations. State building code also now requires "solar ready" for similar projects.

8:00 Vote to formally endorse the proposed solar requirement for new projects >10,000 SF, passed unanimously.

8:01 Vote to formally endorse LEED Silver certification requirement for new projects >10,000 SF, passed unanimously.

8:01 Faire on the Square review

- Outreach activities included Watertown Electricity Choice information, MassSave information, and bus routes survey developed by Jeanne Trubek. Jeanne presented survey results and will forward them to Town Transportation Planner.

8:15 WE3C working group/project updates

- Gas Leaks: Andy reported on discussion with DPW and town engineer. Plan for requesting gas leak information from DPU via public safety official. Meredith forwarded information from Ann Munson of Watertown Faces Climate Change re local gas leaks activity and information.

-School Building Committee (SBC): Several members/guests expressed concerns that it is unclear to what extent WE3C recommendations are being incorporated into the planning process. Discussion of recent announcement at SBC that a sustainability subcommittee of SBC will be formed. Discussion of incorporation of LEED Silver as a goal for the projects. Discussion of utility incentives that can/should be applied to the projects. Discussion of emphasizing the >500 signature petition to incorporate renewable/efficiency/sustainability into the school projects.

-Resources Working Group update: Lauri has developed a Google document listing the documents/websites/resources relevant to the committee's work, updated google sheet emailed to WE3C today. WE3C google sheet viewers can sign in to add to the list itself.

8:44 Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
A. Airasian