

Minutes: Town of Watertown Environment & Energy Efficiency Committee,
December 17, 2018, 7 p.m., 3rd Floor Conference Room, Town Hall

Minutes

The meeting was opened by chair Meredith Fields at 7:04 p.m. Introductions were made. Attending members and citizens: Ed Lewis (Town Energy Manager), Meredith Fields, Lauri Murphy, Jeanne Trubek, Helen Soussou, Brian Hebeisen, Lissa Gifford, Steve Steadman, and Andrew Airasian.

7:04 Introductions, approved minutes of November WE3C meeting.

7:06 Announcements

- Parking Survey meetings will be held 1/23/19 and 1/24/19 for public input at the Library (Main Branch)
- Transportation Committee meeting on the subject of the Pleasant St. shuttle will be held 1/28/19 in the Council Chambers
- A public presentation on the “Future of Transportation in the Commonwealth: Lessons from the Governor’s Commission” will be held at Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education, 10 Winter Place (Downtown Crossing), Boston Wednesday 12/19/19 (refer to www.t4ma.org). RSVP is required, contact Jeanne for more information.
- Next School Building Committee meeting will be 1/2/19 6 p.m., Council Chamber.

7:23 Energy Manager’s Report

- Energy Manager has submitted the FY18 Green Communities Act (GCA) annual report
- Per the report, since FY2010 the Town has reduced actual municipal energy consumption by 12.6% and by 18.5 % when weather normalized per the State methodology. This includes almost a 30% reduction in energy for street lighting.
- Waiting for funding from Eversource to be available for deployment of charging stations.
- Watertown is strongly considering moving forward with the acquisition of two municipal electric vehicles.
- Since 2010, municipal carbon dioxide gas production has been reduced by 22.4% (tons of CO₂)
- discussion of using these reductions as a springboard for Council resolution currently in development to support transition to 100% renewable energy

- discussion of feedback from developers on the draft Solar Ordinance
- discussion of Arsenal Yards development, buildings will be “solar ready”

7:45 Discussion of draft WE3C letter to Town Council on budget priorities that support energy efficiency and adaptation to climate change (handout presented by Meredith)

- passed approval of draft letter at 7:51, with a modification to reference the recommendation to develop a climate action plan

7:51 Compost Working Group update

- Working group has had two meetings, brief discussion of topics under consideration including food waste collection. Also, discussion of past Recycling Committee
- Mass. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) grant money may be available to support compost collection for the town

8:03 Discussion of town tree inventory and planting efforts

- Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) climate-resiliency grants were available in Nov 2018, hope to apply for grant for tree-planting did not work out on such short notice but discussions with tree warden and Trees for Watertown were helpful and informative
- Reviewed results of “Teens for Trees” town-wide survey of street trees
- discussion of forming a working group to focus on trees and tree canopy as important in climate mitigation: Meredith, Jeanne and Steve will meet

8:14 Other working group updates

- School Building Committee will be launching a sustainability subcommittee in January
- Watertown Electricity Choice plan is still waiting for Department of Public Utilities approval, discussion of winter and summer power rates in relation to Eversource rates, also discussion of % renewable options that will be available depending on rates

8:27 Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
A. Airasian