

Minutes: Town of Watertown Environment & Energy Efficiency Committee,
July 16, 2018, 7 p.m., 3rd Floor Conference Room, Town Hall

Minutes

The meeting was opened by chair Meredith Fields at 7:07 p.m. Introductions were made. Attending members and citizens: Ed Lewis (Town Energy Manager), Meredith Fields, Lissa Gifford, Lauri Murphy, Charlie Bering, Jeanne Trubek, Stephen Steadman, Varun Saluja, Heather Angstrom, Councilor Vincent Piccirilli, David Stokes, Councilor Tony Palomba, Councilor Caroline Bays, and Andrew Airasian.

7:10 Announcements

- Watertown Faces Climate Change meeting: Sun July 29, 4:15, The Residence, Summer St
- School Building Committee mtg: Wed Aug 1, 6:00, Council Chamber, Town Hall
- Next WE3C meeting: Mon, Sept 17, 7:00, Town Hall (no mtg in August)
- 350 Mass annual fair and picnic at Filipello Park 19 August 12:00-3:00
- Climate rally at the State House for legislative action Thurs July 19, 12:00-1:30

7:13 Minutes for May and June meetings approved.

7:14 General discussion of "DRAFT WE3C Proposal for Watertown Climate and Energy Master Plan." Following discussion, motion passed unanimously by quorum of committee member present to incorporate edits discussed and forward final version to Town Council subcommittees.

7:35 Energy Manager's Report

- Green Community Grant update: approved grants not yet announced, will be announced Friday 7/20 in Winthrop, Ed Lewis to attend. Watertown's proposed projects include LED lighting upgrades to public buildings and parking lots, electric vehicles and charging stations.
- Lime Bikes (bike-share) have been deployed in town, reportedly there have been over 2,000 rides in the first two weeks by 982 separate riders, averaging .8 mile, for roughly 1600 miles total. General discussion on enhanced publicity for these promising statistics. Lime Bike deployment has been publicized in a Tab article. There was discussion of possible future bike-share availability of electric bikes with question as to whether or not these would constitute a motorized vehicle. Also

discussion on Lime Bike access and use procedure via website for those without a smartphone and publicity for alternate (non-smartphone) use procedure.

- Watertown Electricity Choice update. Dept of Energy Resources (DOER) review is complete, aggregation proposal is now at Dept of Public Utilities (DPU) for approval. DOER approval was relatively fast. Ed to notify all concerned when date of DPU public hearing is known.
- Faire on the Square (FOTS) will be Sat Sept 22, volunteers needed for WE3C booth.
- Ed will be at Arsenal Farmers' Market Oct 4.
- The "Solar ordinance" was forwarded to Town Council, and will receive two public hearings.
- Ed has completed moving into his new office in the basement of the Phillips Building.

7:51 Presentation by Stephen Steadman regarding plan for installation of a solar array at the Church of the Good Shepherd (CGS) [Episcopal]. He reviewed that in 2010, the Episcopal Diocese made a commitment to reduce Greenhouse Gases (GHG) via a set of "Green Grants"; CGS received a grant in 2012 for additional efficiency measures. CGS has been working with Resonant Energy, a local business, to develop options for bridge financing, contact potential contractors, and power customers. Resonant's analysis indicated good potential for a solar array supplying up to 94% of building electric power demand. Funding is available at favorable rates via the Diocese. Discussion of CGS siting within the historical district, visibility of the potential solar array from the street, and request for WE3C recommendation to the Historic District Commission in support of a solar array. WE3C will consider this request.

8:01 Discussion of next installment of WE3C recommendations to School Building Committee. This one addresses site design and management including traffic flow/parking design, use of trees to minimize heat-island effects, landscape design to support native ecosystems, and water management strategies. Intention is to present to SBC on Aug 1, if possible. Future SBC meetings are 8/1, 8/15, 8/29. Discussion of status of solar at school sites: a good case has been made for rooftop solar, but parking area canopies are unlikely. In late August, a high-level decision on mechanical systems for the buildings is likely.

8:08 Resources Working Group update: Lauri has added water/stormwater management as a new issue for resource collection, as discussed at last meeting. She suggested that WE3C internal documents can also be added to the spreadsheet.

8:12 Brief discussion on the status of incorporation of efficiency measures and design recommendations in Arsenal Yards project; Ed volunteered to present information in an upcoming meeting on this project as well as the self-storage facility that is planned near Target which will have solar and efficiency features.

8:16 Brief discussion of ideas for WE3C booth at Faire on the Square, including presenting info on Watertown Electricity Choice.

8:18 David Stokes provided a brief update on Stormwater Advisory Committee activities and interest in coordinating with WE3C. On July 1, a new permit will go into effect regarding Town discharge of untreated stormwater into the Charles River. Permit has a 20 yr lifespan, and some decisions by the Council will be necessary.

8:28 Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
A. Airasian