

Minutes: Town of Watertown Environment & Energy Efficiency Committee
(WE3C),
September 16, 2019, 7 p.m., 3rd Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall

Minutes

The meeting was opened at 7:00 p.m., chaired by Andrew Airasian. Introductions were made. Attending members and citizens: Meredith Fields, Edward Lewis (Town Energy Manager), Laurel Schwab (Town Environmental Planner), Lauri Murphy, Lissa Gifford, Emma Clement, Brian Hebeisen, Helen Soussou, Deborah Peterson, Pat Rathbone, Stephen Steadman, Ellen Rothman, and Jeanne Trubek.

1. The committee approved the meeting minutes from July 15.

2. Announcements

- Laurel Schwab, the town's new Environmental Planner, was introduced. She will be in charge of the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan.
- The next school building committee meeting will be on Wednesday, Sept. 18.
- There will be climate actions on Friday, Sept. 20, Sunday, Sept 22, and on Thursday, September 26 at Framingham commuter rail station there will be a march for zero-emissions transportation.

3. Energy Manager's Report

The Green Community Grants work has been completed with LED upgrade projects all completed.

Eversource will help with the installation of EV charging stations by doing the infrastructure work at no cost to the town. This is the bulk of the cost. The town must pay only for the charging heads. The town has been conditionally accepted into the program. Charging stations are planned for the Library parking lot, the DPW, and another location to be determined. The town has some Green Community money set aside for charger heads.

4. Watertown Electricity Choice

Watertown Electricity Choice is now in operation. We have an 82% participation rate, with 2% of participants opting up to 100% green energy and 2.5% opting down to the state-mandated level of green energy. The

reduction in emissions for the town is equal to 50,000,000 miles of tailpipe emissions. The town will send out another letter in December urging people to join the program.

5. Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness

The town got a \$76,000 grant to do a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness study. This grant is required to make us eligible for other grants. KLA Consultants were chosen for this study. Laurel will be in charge of coordinating KLA's work with the town. The goal is to have the study completed by spring. The deadline is June 2020.

6. Working group updates

Composting: Town councilors Tony Palomba and Caroline Bays are planning a forum on composting to take place November 3 at the library from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. There will be speakers from towns that have a composting program, a speaker from the DPW, and vendors. Half of the cost of garbage collection comes from food waste.

Transportation: The transportation working group submitted a draft of a proposal for a bus route on Pleasant St to be sent to the MBTA in response to its request for new proposals for the Better Bus Project. The committee voted to send this proposal to the MBTA.

The working group also presented a statement of goals to be sent to the town council. The committee began review and decided to table this for further discussion at next meeting.

Trees: Meredith and Steve attended the August meeting of Trees for Watertown where there was interest in holding a follow-up symposium on trees and climate change in March 2020. This will be explored.

School Building Committee: Brian reviewed recent developments in the planning process for the elementary schools and encouraged continued attendance at meetings to follow sustainability planning.

7. Faire in the Square

Faire in the Square takes place September 28. We will have a table and will be prepared to discuss Watertown Energy Choice. Volunteers signed up to be at the table.

Next meeting October 21.

8:30 Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
J. Trubek