

WE3C Meeting Minutes 5/19/14, 7 p.m., 3rd floor Conf. Room, Town Hall

Present: Ken Mirvis, chair, Matt Riegert, Brian Hebeisen, Meredith Fields; guest: Nancy Hammett, Storm Water Advisory Committee

Absent: Stephane Acel-Green, co-chair, Lauri Murphy, Terese Hammerle, Greg Beach

1. Minutes 4/9/14 meeting approved.
2. Green Communities grant: Application to complete streetlight conversion to LEDs has been submitted by Brian and Raeleen Parsons.
3. Solarize Watertown update: Matt reported total of 74 kW capacity now contracted under the program (average Watertown roof array will generate about 4 kW) and this qualifies all contracts for Tier 3 pricing. If 100 kW are contracted, pricing will move to Tier 4 (greater savings) and 200 kW would yield Tier 5 (greatest savings). Hope is to achieve at least Tier 4. NSL is doing a last push to publicize Solarize as contracts must be signed by June 30. Another 201 information meeting will be held at the Middle School on June 2. Matt reported a general increase in interest in solar throughout town as other installers are also giving quotes. He will report to the town council in July regarding the Solarize experience. Committee discussed also holding an event for Solarize participants to discuss the experience and compare notes.
4. Town roof solar-readiness: Brian talked with Steve Magoon about assuring solar-readiness of municipal roofs whenever roofs are replaced. He reported a policy is in place for solar-readiness as part of the bidding process for roof replacement. Brian and Ken are interested in prioritizing readiness as part of building codes or other mechanisms and will discuss further with Steve. Nancy suggested that WE3C request briefings re specific roofs whenever replacements are being planned.
5. Initiatives suggested for consideration by Aaron Dushku: discussion postponed to next meeting since Aaron unable to attend this meeting.
6. CEC Clean Energy Strategies Program grant: \$25,000 grant, application due June 6. There was discussion of potential projects. Greatest interest was finding ways to create incentives to improve energy efficiency of Watertown's housing stock. This was a concern that was widely discussed at the Energy Forum held Sept 2013: most housing in town was built early 20th century and is poorly insulated unless weatherization work has been done. About half of Watertown housing is rental property. Interest is in developing incentives for landlords, renters and seniors in Watertown to increase weatherization and energy efficiency. If successful, this could have a major impact on reducing energy usage and carbon emission. Watertown could also become a pilot for other communities with similar housing stock and rental properties. Ken will

contact CEC regarding this idea.

7. Coordination with Stormwater Advisory Committee: Nancy Hammett asked for information about how WE3C became involved in Charles River coliform contamination issues. Ken summarized. Nancy follows information on outflows and contamination, described SAC work, and suggested increased communication between SAC and WE3C committees to avoid inadvertent overlap. She also suggested better co-ordination between groups in town with environmental interest, perhaps in the form of quarterly “umbrella” meetings to facilitate discussion between town committees and town interest groups. WE3C supported these ideas.

8. Town energy usage: Brian suggested looking at data for town energy usage over time in order to track usage and identify usage changes and trends. Further review and discussion to be on agenda at subsequent meeting.

9. Next meeting: June 30, 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Fields