

The Watertown Environment and Energy Efficiency Committee (WE3C) met remotely via Zoom at 7:00 PM on Monday, February 28, 2022.

The meeting started with a quorum at 7:05. Introductions were made until 7:10.

The following members were present: Ed Lewis, Laurel Schwab, Jeanne Trubek, Ellen Menounos, Pat Rathbone, Brian Hebeisen, Meredith Fields, Lauri Murphy

Others present: Wallace Cole, Libby Shaw, City Councilor Caroline Bays, City Councilor John Gannon, City Councilor John Airaisian, Ernesta Krackiewicz, Susan LaDue, Jessica Grimsby, Steve Steadman, Connie Henry, Helen Soussou.

1) Decision – Vote to approve of minutes of 1/24/2022 meeting.

- Motion – Ed; Second – Jeanne; All in favor – all ayes; All opposed – none.

2) Energy Manager Report (Ed Lewis)

The new Hosmer School is open; old Lowell school is vacated, and work will begin soon; Lowell solar array will deliver 160 kw; design of new High School is coming along with many charettes; HS design is targeting LEED platinum and Net Zero standards, Net Zero will be a challenge at this site.

Also, we can continue to have remote WE3C meetings until July 2022.

3) Environmental Planner Report (Laurel Schwab)

CRWA (Charles River Watershed Assoc) will present on dam removal at the April 6 Conservation Committee meeting. MVP (Municipal Vulnerability Plan) updates – Green Streets locations have been identified; another round of MVP Action proposals is coming up; activities shaping up this spring may include a green infrastructure walking tour.

4) Climate Action Plan Report (Laurel Schwab)

Draft plan has been released for public comments; comment period closes on March 11; and the consultant will turn around the final plan by the end of March; then it will go to City Council for the review and adoption process.

Comments from WE3C members and City Councilors, and other attendees:

- Pat – WFCC (Watertown Faces Climate Change) is planning to submit significant feedback.
- Brian – City counselors, we will need your support when the plan is published.
- Caroline Bays – asked how ordinances will be proposed, and how will budget increases be proposed.
- John Gannon is the chair of the City Council Rules and Ordinances committee, and John Airaisian is one of three members.
- Brian suggested the counselors look at the blueprints in the Climate Plan to know what ordinances the plan proposes. Councilors can expect WE3C committee or a department to proactively bring them an ordinance for their review. WE3C will take a facilitation role after the plan is published.

- Caroline Bays – can we get some paper copies. She has received feedback that the plan is difficult to read online. Laurel responded that paper copies would be made available and that the final plan would definitely be produced in hard copy.
- Libby Shaw - please incorporate recommendations from Greg Mosman (former Tree Warden.)

5) **Decision – Discuss and vote on letter to Alexandria Real Estate regarding development at Watertown Mall.**

Brian had a few text changes; Ernesta suggested asking for the most advanced heat recovery systems; John Gannon suggested asking for bus shelters on Arsenal Street; Brian asked that the developer use permeable materials for all non-green surfaces such as parking lots. Letter will be Cc'd to City Councilors and key people in City government.

- We voted to send the letter as amended.

6) **Decision -- Discuss and vote on letter from MA Net Zero Buildings Coalition to Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER).**

Ed Lewis reviewed base building code, vs updated stretch code, vs opt-in Net Zero. This letter pushes for a more effective stretch code and an opt-in to require Net Zero. The committee discussed whether we should sign the letter. Ed stated his support for the letter, and he recommended that WE3C sign, with Jeanne to submit.

- We voted to sign letter.

7) **Decision – Discuss and vote on forwarding to City Council a proposed tree ordinance and related fact sheet.** Meredith Fields introduced the Tree Ordinance, which has been developed by a citizen working group over several months. The goal is to circulate the draft document widely for feedback—among City Council, City departments, and the general public. The working group would expect to make revisions over the next couple of months, based on the feedback. This Tree Ordinance will dovetail with the forthcoming Climate Plan. Pat suggested we find a way to circulate the Tree Ordinance in the school community. Meredith thanked all who contributed to the draft. People may comment at the following email address: ProtectWatTrees@gmail.com

- We voted to sign the Tree Ordinance as a committee, and go forward with circulation.

8) Introduction of our guest, City Councilor John Airasian. Discussion of WE3C work, questions and responses.

Our next meeting will be March 21, via zoom.

9) **Decision – Vote to adjourn.**

- Motion – Ed; Second – Jeanne; All in favor – ayes; All opposed – none.