

The Watertown Environment and Energy Efficiency Committee met remotely via Zoom at 7:00 PM on Monday, July 18, 2022.

The following members and staff were present: Ed Lewis (Energy Manager), Jeanne Trubek (Co-Chair), Ellen Menounos (Co-Chair), Brian Hebeisen, Carina Wallack. **Others present:** Councilor Caroline Bays, Ernesta Krackiewicz, Steve Steadman, Silas Fyler. Susan LaDue was there for part of the meeting. **The following members and staff were absent:** Laurel Schwab, Lauri Murphy, Pat Rathbone.

The meeting started with a quorum at 7:03.

1) Announcements

- WE3C membership. Carina is now officially a member. We have two openings.
- Next WE3C meeting is September 19, Ellen will Chair, Jeanne will be away so we will need a volunteer to take minutes.
- Faire on the Square is September 24.

2) Decision—Approve minutes from the last meeting. Motion—Ed. Second—Ellen. All in favor? Ayes. All opposed? None.

3) Energy Manager Report (Ed Lewis)

Climate Plan. City Council subcommittee on Climate and Energy is reviewing the Climate and Energy Master Plan in series of three public listening sessions. There have been two so far (July 7 and July 14) and the next one is July 19 at 5:30. Councilor Bays anticipates that the Plan will be presented the whole City Council on August 9. She does not anticipate a marking up of the plan.

DPW has added more EV chargers. The EV chargers at DPW are often empty overnight, but they are not open to the public.

Schools. The latest cost estimates for the high school came in high (modular units as well.) The design team is going through value engineering (e.g., moving from triple glazed windows to double glazed.) Ai3 has been asked to quantify the energy impact this value engineering will have on the NetZero (NZ) building. Solar energy features on the building were made an Alt Ad. We need to keep pushing for NZ. Energy Utilization Index (EUI) <25 is the criteria for NetZero. Per Councilor Bays, there is a strong commitment to NZ. A geothermal test well was drilled to 1000’.

We are heading into a heat wave. The Hosmer School solar array is not online yet because outdoor elements of the project are not finished. Silas Fyler from Department of Public Buildings explained ‘demand charges’. Peak demand is expected to happen here in the next three days, and that will determine our demand charges for the rest of the year. Most of our large buildings have demand charges. This differs from home electric bills, which charge for transmission and supply (generation.) At the Hosmer and Cuniff Schools, they are trying experimenting with different ways of lowering demand in the next three hot days, in order to lower demand charges for the rest of the year.

4) Environmental Planner Report (Ed Lewis reporting for Laurel Schwab)

The Watertown Public Arts & Culture Committee has launched Edible Watertown, a project that promotes awareness of our local environment through community engagement and the artistic and scientific exploration of native plants. <https://www.watertown-ma.gov/815/Edible-Watertown>

5) Joint letter to Alexandria on transportation

Letter refers to 'shadow parking'. Ernesta defined shadow parking as follows: The current minimum requirements are more than what is needed. With shadow parking, less parking is built, but more area can be released to turn into parking if necessary. Question from the public, is it possible to get rid of parking minimums all together? Discussion—they are doing this in some places.

Steve Magoon requested that this letter to be sent direct to Alexandria, not via the Planning Department. Brian—it would be great to know better how to work better with DCDP when we want to shape new development. Per Councilor Bays - George Proakis, the new City Manager, is starting August 15. He would be interested in any letters.

Decision—Motion to accept and send this letter as discussed with small corrections and amendments. Motion—Ed. Second—Brian. All in favor? Ayes. All opposed? None.

6) Joint recommendations for transportation in the Comprehensive Plan update

Question, What is the overlap between the Climate Plan and the Comprehensive Plan? How much do we copy from one to the other, versus reference it. The important question is Do they align? The 2015 Comprehensive Plan covers everything. What is the timeframe for the next Comprehensive Plan that is being worked on right now? It should be completed by the end of the year. Councilor Bays - the Climate Plan could be an appendix to the Comprehensive Plan.

Decision—Motion to send the letter, with minor modifications, to the people who are updating the Comprehensive Plan. Jeanne offered to lightly edit the document.

Motion—Brian. All in favor? Ayes. All opposed? None.

7) Synthetic turf. Consensus—revisit this topic in October. Susan LaDue has offered to help with this.

8) Working group updates

Transportation. Allston transportation group has expressed interest in working with Watertown.

Watertown Electricity Choice. Social media posts from consultant have been posted. Ed will be at the Farmer's Market tabling this Wed. Suggestion to put something together for Charlie Breitrose in September, promoting WEC.

9) New business

Which working groups will Carina join? Definitely NZ. (NZ currently does not have a chair.) Jeanne will send out a list of WE3C members and working group members.

10) Decision—To adjourn at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Menounos