

Minutes: Town of Watertown Environment & Energy Efficiency Committee
(WE3C),
July 15, 2019, 7 p.m., 3rd Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall

Minutes

The meeting was opened at 7:00 p.m., chaired by Meredith Fields. Introductions were made. Attending members and citizens: Paul Gromer (Peregrine Energy), Andrew Airasian, Lauri Murphy, Lissa Gifford, Emma Clement, Brian Hebeisen, Helen Soussou, Deborah Peterson, Jacqui Gross, and Jeanne Trubek.

1. The committee approved the meeting minutes from June 17.

2. Announcements

There will be four public information sessions about Watertown Electricity Choice with someone from Peregrine attending as well as Ed Lewis.

- i. July 24, Farmers Market from 2:30 to 6:30 we will have a booth.
- ii. July 27, noon, there will be a public meeting at the Library in the Watertown Savings Bank room.
- iii. August 1, 7:00 p.m., there will be another public meeting at the Library.
- iv. August 6, 10:00 a.m., there will be a meeting at the Senior Center.

The next meeting of WE3C will be on September 16.

3. Discussion of Watertown Electricity Choice

The letter about the program went to residents during the week of July 8. Town Energy Manager Ed Lewis and Marlana Patten at Peregrine have been getting many calls. We discussed ways to encourage people to come to the public meetings and also ways to encourage people to opt up to 100% renewable energy. We encourage people to call Peregrine with any questions rather than Direct Energy, and to use the website.

4. Energy Manager report (delivered by Meredith, as Ed is on vacation)

Ed met with Town Treasurer Gonzalez and Town Assessor Smith to discuss the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program. More recently the program has suffered a setback due to a technical correction in legislative wording. If all goes well, it will be available in the next fiscal year.

5. Working Group updates

- i. Composting: Councilors Tony Palomba and Caroline Bays are working on planning a public information event on composting for some time in the fall. The WE3C working group and members of WFCC are involved with the planning.
- ii. Transportation: Jeanne gave a brief report on the meeting of the Planning and Development committee on the Transportation Management Association (TMA). The Transportation working group will have another meeting in August to determine direction.

6. Letter regarding proposed changes to Renewable Portfolio Standard

At our last meeting we requested that Brian and Meredith draft a letter to the DOER expressing our concerns about the changes in Biomass regulations. Meredith read the draft. We added a sentence concerning our adoption of a CCA with Class 1 RECS and voted to send the letter to the DOER and to Governor Baker.

7. Planning for Faire on the Square

We briefly discussed Faire on the Square. We will have an information table and will be prepared to discuss Watertown Electricity Choice. We will discuss this again at our next meeting.

Next meeting September 16.

8:30 Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
J. Trubek