

Minutes: Town of Watertown Environment & Energy Efficiency Committee (WE3C)
July 19, 2021, 7 p.m., via ZOOM Meeting

Minutes

The meeting was opened at 7:00 p.m., chaired by Emma Clement. Attending members and citizens: Edward Lewis (Town Energy Manager), Laurel Schwab (Town Environmental Planner), Lauri Murphy, Steve Steadman, Pat Rathbone, Ernesta Krackiewicz, Brian Hebeisen, Helen Soussou, Eva Keleher (intern to Laurel Schwab) and Jeanne Trubek.

1. Introductions were made. The minutes of 6/21/21 meeting were approved.

2. Energy Manager Report - Edward Lewis

Faire in the Square will be held this year, on Saturday, September 25 from 11:00 am. to 4:00 pm. WE3C will have a table, as will the Climate Action Plan, the Conservation Commission, Storm Water Commission and other groups concerned with the environment. This year there will be an "environmental row" with the tables for these groups in the same area. Ed needs volunteers! There will be 3 shifts: 11:00 - 12:30, 12:30 - 2:00 and 2:00 - 4:00. Please be ready to volunteer - our next meeting is September 20, just 5 days before Faire in the Square. If you know when you would like to volunteer, you can email Ed and get on the list.

The town has a social media person, Jeanne Ostroff, who has been doing a great job with getting Watertown Electricity Choice information on the website, the facebook page, instagram and other social media. Ed has requested a light board to put outside at town hall to make announcements,

Ed has met with the school superintendent, Dr. Deanna Galdstone, and the Department of Public Works and the Food Services concerning incorporating composting into the school food service operations. There is a new school Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Dr. Kimberlee Henry, who has many ideas for reaching more people with the climate and action plan survey.

3. Environmental Planner Report - Laurel Schwab

Laurel has been working with the Charles River Watershed Association and 14 other watershed communities to develop a Charles River Flood Model. Version 1.0 can be found here <https://crwa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=4649d032ebb74cafb20767e4f3e369df>

The model will be refined as resources become available.

Watertown is also working with the Resilient Mystic Collaborative lobbying the state government for money for resilience.

3. Climate Action Plan update - Laurel Schwab

The Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) has been preparing for its Group Meeting #2 which will be held on Tuesday, July 27th from 6-8pm (remote meeting). The meeting will be open for viewing by the public on <https://wcatv.org/>. While viewers will not be able to speak during their meeting, they may email questions and comments to Resilient Watertown: resilient@watertown-ma.gov. The focus of this substantive meeting will be to refine the proposed actions developed by the working groups and collected through the public survey. Participants will dive deep in breakout group discussions to understand how these actions can become a reality for Watertown. We will hear an update on the progress of the Greenhouse Gas Inventory and community engagement, and then work in breakout groups to identify barriers and opportunities for high-impact actions. The meeting will be live-streamed for public viewing and recordings of the breakout group discussions will be posted following the meeting. All documents produced by the working

groups are available to the public at

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Zi9lkHDFwIIuOlfAwOS6iqmkb9Uvtlky?usp=sharing>

People are encouraged to read these documents and send thoughts, comments to the working group chairs or to resilient@watertown-ma.gov.

The Climate Action Plan has had a table at the Farmers' Market and will have tables at the Watertown Arts Market in Arsenal Park on August 21 and at the Faire in the Square.

Brian added: Please give feedback to members of SAG. It is important for people to attend the meeting on July 27, via WCATV from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. NOW is the time to give input to the members of SAG. See the google drive link for all documents.

4. Working Group Reports

Watertown Electricity Choice - Lauri Murphy

Door hangers have been hung in each of the sectors of Watertown. If anyone has extras, give them to Lauri or to Deb Peterson and we will use them at Faire in the Square. Ed said that Peregrine keeps statistics on people signing up and reports monthly, so we will be able to see how much this campaign has had. The working group needs to meet to make decisions about the type of renewable energy they want so we can begin the rebidding process.

Net Zero - Brian Hebeisen

Climate Action Plan has been taking all the energy.

Schools - Pat Rathbone

We are waiting for the architects to have a plan for how they will get to net zero for the High School. On a smaller scale is having them reconsider Solar on the Lowell school. The Schools working group wants them to go back to see how much solar can be put on the Lowell. There are disagreements about putting solar on the slate roof. They tentatively have decided to put no solar on slate but they are looking again at flat parts.

Ordinances: Emma Clement

The working group has a draft of a tree ordinance. The next step is to discuss it with Greg Mossman. After we finish the Tree Ordinance, we will begin looking at Synthetic Turf. This is a more difficult issue.

5. New business

Brian suggested that we invite town councilors, one or two at a time, to be guests at our meeting, to learn what we are discussing, present their own ideas, and ask questions. We would add a half hour to the meeting to make sure we cover the business we need to cover and have time for the councilor to speak. All agreed that this would be a good idea, and that we will take it up in more detail at the next meeting.

Next meeting September 20, 2021.

8:30 Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Trubek