

The Watertown Environment and Energy Efficiency Committee met remotely via Zoom at 7:00 PM on Monday, December 19, 2022.

The following members and staff were present: Ed Lewis (Energy Manager), Silas Fyler (Project Manager, Department of Public Buildings), Ellen Menounos (Co-Chair), Jeanne Trubek (Co-Chair), Pat Rathbone, Carina Wallack.

Others present: Ernesta Krackiewicz, Nicole Gardner, George Proakis (City Manager), Susan Ladue.

The meeting started with a quorum at 7:10 with Jeanne Trubek presiding.

1) Announcements -- The next meeting of WE3C will be Monday, January 23, 2023.

- Going forward, co-chairs will send an email with time sensitive announcements, the day after the WE3C meeting.
- There are meetings this week on Dec 20 and Dec 22, hosted by Alexandria and their consultants, regarding the Environmental Notification Form (ENF) for Watertown Mall. Comments on ENF are due before our next meeting.
- There is a public meeting on the Alexandria garage (480 Arsenal St) on Jan 12.

2) Energy Manager Report (Silas Fyler and Ed Lewis)

- Silas presented to the Economic Development sub-committee regarding the new specialized stretch code. The city must use the stretch code going into the future because we are a green city. If the City Council adopts the specialized stretch code, the building requirements of that code will apply to all new construction after the implementation date, even if the permitting occurred before the adoption. The presentation was well received.
- Hosmer Elementary School battery will be installed mid January. Cuniff School battery still has not been turned on yet.
- Waiting to hear from Mass Save about grant money.
- Welcome Katie Swan, new Environmental Planner.
- Climate Plan ranked first as budget priority for councilors for FY24.

3) Environmental Planner Report (Ed Lewis)

City Council sent letter of support for removing the Watertown Dam.

The Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Committee has re-formed, and they are meeting on a regular basis now.

LIHEAP offers heat assistance, also pays for emergency repairs to boilers, etc. [Learn about Home Energy Assistance - LIHEAP | Mass.gov](#) Councilor Gardner suggested paper flyers in places like library, Boys & Girls Club, where people might be going for warmth.

4) Discussion: letter to Alexandria. Vote to authorize the Transportation working group to send a letter on behalf of WE3C, with comments on the Environmental Notification Form from Alexandria for Watertown Mall.

Consensus: People should send comments individually. No letter will be sent on behalf of WE3C.

5) Discussion: letter to Alexandria #2. Vote to authorize the Transportation working group to send a letter on behalf of WE3C, regarding the Alexandria garage at 480 Arsenal St. The letter will encourage alternate forms of transportation other than cars. The letter will read 'Alexandria should consider alternatives to building a second garage.' Per City Manager Proakis, we have zoning laws that allow a developer to apply for something like this, but there has been No special permit granted (no local approval).

MOTION - PAT

SECOND - ELLEN

All ayes/approved unanimously. 5:0:0 Ellen, Jeanne, Carina, Pat, Ed.

6) Minutes – Vote to approve the draft minutes from the November meeting.

MOTION – ED

SECOND – CARINA

All ayes/approved unanimously.

7) Working groups--

Watertown Electricity Choice (WEC) – has been doing social media blasts regarding the favorable rates, encouraging people to sign up.

8) Discussion with new City Manager George Proakis — Proakis shared that the new Climate Action Plan was one of the things that compelled him to work in Watertown. His hope is that the CAP integrates well with the Comprehensive Plan. The Committee extended an open invitation for Mr Proakis to attend our monthly meetings.

9) Move to adjourn at 8:45.

All ayes/approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Menounos