

The Watertown Environment and Energy Efficiency Committee met remotely via Zoom at 7:00 PM on Monday, January 23, 2023.

The following members and staff were present: Ed Lewis (Energy Manager, Emeritus), Silas Fyler (Energy Manager, Incoming), Ellen Menounos (Co-Chair), Jeanne Trubek (Co-Chair), Pat Rathbone, Carina Wallack, Brian Hebeisen, **Others present:** Ernesta Krackiewicz, Nicole Gardner, David Gardner, Andres Guzman, Steve Steadman, Katie Swan, Jolly Traeger, Nate Russell

The meeting started with a quorum at 7:00 with Jeanne Trubek presiding.

1) Announcements -- The next meeting of WE3C will be Monday, February 27, 2023.

There was a recent Watertown Forward meeting about ARPA funds. Councilor Gardner recommended watching the recording to learn about what ARPA money is, what the money can be spent on, and how other municipalities have used their money.

[Watertown Forward City Chat #3 ARPA SD 480p - YouTube](#)

On Feb 1, there is a Budget and Finance Oversight (BFO) Committee meeting, where experts will share with the public what they know about using ARPA funds, and how proposals will be evaluated. This will be followed by an 8-week input period where people can submit proposals.

Watertown has been awarded \$240k in grant money for tree trenches, which will contribute to a strong urban forest, cooling, and stormwater management

2) Vote: To accept the 12-19-22 minutes as they were drafted.

MOTION – Ed; SECOND – Pat. All ayes/approved unanimously.

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

- The new Opt-in Specialized Stretch Code was passed by City Council. It will take effect on July 10, 2023. Watertown was one of the first municipalities in the state to opt-in via Council vote.
- Silas offered updates on the construction of the temporary High School at Moxley Field, and updates on the Lowell School construction.
- They city has purchased a new building, the old Parker School, and will be reviewing building over the next few months.
- The Hosmer Elementary School battery has been installed, and panels have been installed. Now just have to wait for it all to be turned on.
- The Cunniff School has suffered many delays related to Eversource service. Recently a few people in town applied political pressure, and Eversource has responded by implying that the electric meters will be installed shortly. the Cunniff arrays are now up and running.
- We now have functioning EV chargers at the Cunniff School and the Hosmer School.
- Silas runs the building controls for all the new buildings.
- Ed Lewis summarized recent DPW accomplishments which align with the new Climate Plan:
 - The Black Earth composting program has enrolled 2k households; the program has diverted 230 tons of waste so far.
 - Additionally, the textile recycling program has been diverting almost a ton of solid waste per month.
 - An urban forestry grant funded a new tree inventory, which can be seen here: <https://pg-cloud.com/WatertownMA/>

- Tree warden Mike Micieli planted 162 trees this fall, plus gave away 65 bare root trees to residents. His 2023 target for tree planting is 360 trees.
- Ed shared information about Lexington's Heatsmart program. They rely on a WE3C equivalent group to help move residents toward electrification.
Find out more in this presentation: [Lexington Heatsmart Launch Event.pdf](#)
What would it take for WE3C to fulfill this function in Watertown? Is this something we want to do? This could be a discussion topic at our next meeting.
Brian distinguished between Heatsmart, which was a sanctioned program from the state, and Heatsmart Alliance <https://heatsmartalliance.org/>.

4) Working group updates—

The Net Zero working group has drafted a Building Energy Use Disclosure Ordinance (BEUDO.) A BEUDO mandates energy use reporting from certain properties (large commercial, residential, municipal developments). It does not mandate the *reduction* of energy use.

This draft was modeled after the Cambridge ordinance. The working group asked for people to review the draft BEUDO and offer their comments.

Question--Are there any exemptions such as nonprofit or religious?

Question--How much Staff time would be required to support the BEUDO?

Silas recommended looking at Lexington's BEUDO/BERDO, it is simple and effective.

The state ~~has~~may legislated a BEUDO/BERDO to be done at some future date and it may be modeled after City of Boston.

Watertown Electricity Choice (WEC) working group

The current WEC contract is good through the end of 2023. With our consultant, Watertown is considering going out for indicative pricing in early February. The gas futures market has been fluctuating wildly, and this may make it more advantageous to go out to bid now. WEC working group in the past was Ed, Brian, Meredith, Lauri, and Deb Peterson. Since the group is changing with Ed and Meredith leaving, Brian asked who else may be interested in joining this group.

Ordinances working group

On January 10, the tree ordinance working group met with City Manager George Proakis, Steve Magoon, Greg St Louis. They asked some questions about the draft tree protection ordinance that was submitted in July. They indicated that City Staff are ready to make some edits to the working group draft. This would be before any sort of legal review, which also needs to happen.

5) **Vote: To adjourn at 8:45.**

MOTION – Pat; SECOND – Brian. All ayes/approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Menounos