

The Watertown Environment and Energy Efficiency Committee met remotely via Zoom at 7:00 PM on Monday, February 26, 2023.

The following members and staff were present: Ellen Menounos (Co-Chair), Jeanne Trubek (Co-Chair), Silas Fyler (Energy Manager), Laurel Schwab (Environmental Planner), Lauri Murphy, Brian Hebeisen, Pat Rathbone, Marcia Ciro

Absent: Carina Wallack, Shin Nagpal

Others present: Steve Steadman, Susan Ladue, Jacqui Gross, Libby Shaw

The meeting started with a quorum at 7:00 with Ellen Menounos presiding.

1. Announcements

- The next meeting of WE3C will be Monday, March 18 at 7 pm. It will be a Hybrid meeting with the in-person meeting in City Hall.

2. Vote: Minutes from 01/29/24 were approved unanimously.

3. Environmental Planner Report (Laurel Schwab)

- The people working on the Tree Ordinance have submitted comments concerning the Department of Public Works (DPW) revisions of the ordinance to the DPW. They have not received a response.
- Laurel is working on a Municipal Vulnerability Proposal. Applications are due mid to late April.
- The City is having composting at major events. Tammy McKenna is supervising this. The first event will be the Pride celebration on June 2.
- We are also talking with Watertown Community Gardens about how the City can eliminate invasive plant species.
- The Open Space Manager position is not yet filled. Also, the Energy Advocate position is still open.

4. Energy Manager Report (Silas Fyler)

- The EV Charger at Lowell should be turned on this week. There is just one. It is open to the public evenings and weekends.
- Save the date: Feb 29 will be the next public meeting concerning the changes in Watertown Square. There will be another in April.
- The draft of the proposal for a BERDO (Building Emissions Reduction Disclosure Ordinance) will be distributed a week before the next meeting. We are trying to follow the correct practices for submitting ordinances. They appear to be
 1. The committee approves what we are submitting.
 2. We send it to the City Manager.
 3. The City Manager sends it to City Council.
 4. The Council decides the process from there.
- The DOER is holding a Community Meeting for Climate Leader Community hopefuls. The meeting will be on March 14 from 2:00 to 3:00 pm. It is an online meeting. The link is

5. Working group updates

- Net Zero Discussed in Energy Manager's Report. The working group promises to have a draft for us one week before the next meeting, i.e. by March11. It will be posted on the town website.
- Tree ordinance: The DPW has done a major revision of the ordinance submitted. The original, the revised, and the working group's comments will all be posted on the city website with these minutes. They are available for comment.
- The Climate Outreach working group meets remotely, during the work-day. Their meetings will be posted online 48 hours in advance.
- The transportation working group has not been active since the last meeting.

Vote: Motion to adjourn at 8:15 approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Jeanne Trubek