

The Watertown Environment and Energy Efficiency Committee met remotely via Zoom at 7:00 PM on Monday, January 29, 2024. The meeting started with a quorum at 7:00 with Jeanne Trubek presiding.

The following members and staff were present:

Jeanne Trubek (Co-Chair), Ellen Menounos (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: Mike Albano (DPW), Larry Raskin, Pam Phillips, Steve Steadman, Susan Ladue, Ernesta Krackiewicz, Joan Gumbleton

1. Announcements

- Introducing new member Marcia Ciro. Marcia is a graphic designer with an Environmental Studies background.
- The next meeting of WE3C will be Monday, February 26 at 7 pm. It will be a Zoom meeting.

2. (Vote) Minutes from 12/18/23 were approved unanimously.

3. Energy Manager Report (Silas Fyler)

- City Council subcommittee on Climate and Energy saw a preliminary BERDO presentation.
- Lowell School has passed all requirements for its solar array.
- The new Watertown High School will have a shipping container for growing hydroponics.

4. Environmental Planner Report (Laurel Schwab)

- Staff presented an update on Climate Plan implementation to the City Council Climate & Energy subcommittee on 1/18/2024.
- Energy Advocate Ryan Hamilton is leaving, job is being listed.
- Lowell School micro-forest project is a joint effort between the City and Trees for Watertown. Corner of Orchard and George St is a promising location. Staff has met with Principal Stacy Phelan and Math & Science Coordinator Elizabeth Kaplan.
- Trees for Watertown has been invited to apply for a grant from the Bosch foundation to pay for this micro-forest. Staff is working with Watertown Community Gardens about regarding the possibility of other communal garden plots in that same area. Pam Phillips reported that some pollinator initiatives don't work with the Bosch grant timeline.
- Staff will work with the Health Department on a grant application for MAPC (Metropolitan Area Planning Council) to do a vulnerability assessment in Watertown.

5. Working groups

- Transportation -- (Jeanne Trubek is the only delegate from WE3C.) This working group is seeking a grant to study all the different ways people are transported around town. Strong interest in microtransit, like Newton's NewMo.
- Climate Outreach – meeting biweekly. This group is not drafting policy, it is setting up communications like a newsletter, and finding ways to connect with more residents for positive climate action.
- Net Zero – working on drafting a Building Emissions Reduction and Disclosure Ordinance (BERDO). A full BERDO presentation and vote will be on a future WE3C agenda, either February or March. After the WE3C vote, the draft BERDO will be forwarded to City Council for review.
- Ordinances – (Ellen Menounos is the only delegate from WE3C.) Finally an update on the Tree Ordinance, on Jan 26, the Tree Ordinance working group met with members of DPW to review a DPW drafted tree ordinance. This was in response to a WE3C approved draft submitted in July of 2022. Tree working group is working group is working on submitting comments on the DPW draft.

6. (Vote) Motion to adjourn at 8:26 approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Menounos