

## Minutes

The meeting was opened at 7:00 p.m., chaired by Meredith Fields. Introductions were made. Attending members and citizens: Edward Lewis (Town Energy Manager), Ken Mirvis, Laurel Schwab (Town Environmental Planner), Andrew Airasian, Lauri Murphy, Lissa Gifford, Emma Clement, Brian Hebeisen, Helen Soussou, Stephen Steadman, Jacqui Gross, Susan Zhu, and Jeanne Trubek.

1. The committee approved the meeting minutes from September 16, 2019.

### 2. Announcements

- There are two openings on this committee. We are looking for new members.
- Thursday, October 24 is a Town Council at-large Candidates' Forum at 6:30 at the high school.
- The second MIT climate symposium, Challenges of Climate Policy, will be held Tuesday, October 29, 2019, 4:00–7:00 pm in the Wong auditorium in building E51.
- The State Board of Buildings Regulations and Standards (BBRS) removed green buildings experts from the committee tasked with developing a Net Zero stretch code, replacing them with contractors. The public comment period on this extends to November 5. People can send comments about this to the BBRS.
- The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) is offering grants to do more outreach for MassSave. Participating communities will receive access to start-up funds (\$2,000), technical support, marketing materials, and will be eligible for a performance bonus. Ed will look into this.
- WE3C, along with many other town organizations and Councilors Bays and Palomba, is sponsoring a forum on *Composting: Why and How* on Sunday, November 3, from 2:00 to 4:00 at the Watertown Free Library.

### 3. Energy Manager's Report

The Faire on the Square table was quite successful. There was good traffic at the table. Over 800 flyers were handed out. MassSave discussed their programs with at least 38 people. Several people were interested and discussed Watertown Electricity Choice.

### 4. Environmental Planner's Report

The research and base-line assessment for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) study has begun. There will be stakeholder workshops in December. The Conservation Commission has proposed that Watertown become a Bee City. This means a pollinator-friendly city. Other cities in the country have done this. Laurel visited the remaining parcel of the former arsenal. This last piece could not be cleaned up. At present it is a constructed wetland. It could become a nice public space. The State Department of Conservation and Recreation currently owns it; the town does not want to accept ownership until it is cleaned up.

## **5. Transportation statement**

The draft statement to town council proposed by the WE3C transportation working group regarding shuttles and buses for local transportation was reviewed and discussed. It was suggested that an opening statement of the problem should be added. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that the working group should amend the statement according to the recommendations and send it to the town council.

The state Department of Transportation is calling again for proposals to use the VW settlement money. It was unanimously voted that WE3C resubmit our previous proposal to convert Watertown Yard to a facility for electric buses with charging stations and solar canopies.

## **5. Watertown Electricity Choice**

The working group is developing plans for disseminating updated information to the residents of Watertown in late fall after Eversource's winter rates are public, to urge people who have opted out of the program to opt in, and to encourage people to opt up to 100% green energy. Information letters for new accounts are also needed.

## **6. Composting and recycling**

The forum "Compost: Why and How" will be Sunday, November 3, from 2 to 4 p.m. WE3C will have a table to provide information about what this committee does.

The idea was discussed that this committee recommend that a Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Committee be established. Previously the Town had a Recycling Committee that was disbanded several years ago; the need for one has re-emerged. The committee voted unanimously in favor of making this a formal recommendation to Town Council.

## **7. School Building Committee Sustainability subcommittee**

The architect seems to be committed to LEED Gold and Net zero. Currently there is discussion of including space and plumbing for dishwashers in the cafeterias. Helen Soussou read a statement in favor of dishwashers that she presented to the Sustainability subcommittee. The default plan for kitchens would be for continuing use of disposables in all three schools; serious planning for the future says that it is likely this will not be an acceptable option soon. The next step in the school design is looking at costs.

Other updates on working groups will continue at the next meeting.

Next meeting November 18.

8:30 Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
J. Trubek