



## SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

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Sustainable Energy Director: Marybeth Martello

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Laura Olton, Chair

Susan Morris, Vice Chair

Cindy Mahr

Ellen Korpi

Fred Bungler

Lise Olney

Martha Collins

### SEC Monthly Meeting

Remote Zoom Meeting

February 5, 2021

#### Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:32 a.m. by Laura Olton. Present were Sustainable Energy Committee (SEC) members: Laura Olton (SEC Chair), Sue Morris (SEC Vice Chair), Lise Olney, Fred Bungler, Ellen Korpi, Cindy Mahr, and Martha Collins. Also present were Marybeth Martello (Sustainable Energy Director), Janet Mosley (SEC Analyst), Deed McCollum, Pamela Posey, and Roopa Chandrasekaran.

**Citizens' Speak** - None

#### **Minutes**

Lise Olney noted the spelling of Catherine Johnson's name in the January 8 minutes should be corrected. Fred Bungler moved to approve the SEC's December 4, December 11, December 17, and January 8 meeting minutes as amended. Ellen Korpi seconded the motion *and the Committee voted to approve the December 4, December 11, and January 8 meeting minutes.*

#### **Climate Action Plan**

Marybeth gave an update on progress on the Climate Action Plan (CAP). The two-page outreach document is complete, the updated website is ready to go-live, and the Request for Proposal (RFP) to hire a consultant is nearly final. The scope of work for the consultant focuses on quantitative analysis to support decision-making by the working groups. Marybeth requested any comments on the RFP by Monday, February 8 as the RFP will be issued on February 10. Due date for RFP submissions will be March 3, with a start date of March 24 and tentative end date of December 24. Marybeth suggested the chairs of the three key working groups – Fred, Ellen, and Martha – could interview the consultant along with Marybeth. Marybeth drafted a presentation to introduce municipal boards to the CAP and will be sending out emails to request time on the agenda at their upcoming meetings. The SEC discussed logistics for outreach to the community through Green Collaborative meetings in the spring and focus group meetings in the fall. Ellen Korpi explained that the Municipal Light Plant plans to launch its heat pump incentive pilot in the spring and hopes to use the outreach for this program to introduce the CAP to many Wellesley residents. Marybeth will continue to think about how best to solicit questions, input, and feedback on the CAP process during the spring and summer.

### **SEC Articles and Report for Annual Town Meeting 2021**

Laura presented the proposed language for the two motions in the SEC's warrant article for Annual Town Meeting 2021. The SEC approved language for the motion regarding the recommended greenhouse gas reduction goals in a previous meeting. The second motion proposes changing the name of the SEC to the Climate Action Committee and associated amendments to the SEC Article 12 bylaw. Since Planning Board members are already overextended and cannot commit to participating as a new member on the SEC, Laura removed edits to the SEC Article 12 proposing an increase in the number of SEC members from seven to nine. Lise requested to delay voting on SEC Article 12 amendments until after a final review of the language. The SEC will call a short meeting the week of February 15 to vote on finalizing the SEC Article 12 amendments and accompanying motion language.

### **Sustainability and Zoning**

Fred Bunger provided an update on the next steps to include sustainability in Wellesley's zoning bylaws and Planning review process. The Planning Department proposed the creation of a working group to continue to advance these goals. Potential members include Fred Bunger, Valerie Oorthuys, Ellen Watts, and Laura Pfadt. The kick-off meeting would also include Marybeth, Meghan Jop, and Don McCauley.

### **Draft Joint Comments on Massachusetts Interim Clean Energy and Climate Plan 2030**

The State is seeking comments from the public and municipalities on the 2030 Clean Energy and Climate Plan with a March 10 submission deadline. Committee members expressed interest in providing feedback to the state on the plan. Natick and Westborough developed and shared joint comments that they hope other municipalities like Wellesley will also sign. Marybeth asked SEC members to review the latest version of the joint comments and send any desired changes to Marybeth. Lise pointed out that other letters are being circulated that Wellesley may be asked to review and endorse, such as one from the Gas Leaks Allies group.

### **Questions Regarding Project Updates**

Ellen Korpi reported that two major obstacles to increasing renewable energy on the grid may be lowered in the near term. The federal government has indicated that it will resume reviewing permits for off-shore wind projects, including Vineyard Wind, which could be operating as early as 2023. Additionally, a new report from the Americans for Clean Energy Grid advocates that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission facilitate cost-effective construction of transmission infrastructure that is compatible with transmitting larger volumes of renewable energy. Ellen also stated that 85% of funds collected through the WECARE program (to begin July 1) will be invested in Wellesley in direct emissions reduction and reinvestment into MLP initiatives.

Marybeth presented to the Advisory Board on February 3. Advisory members expressed support for the SEC's work.

### **Additional Business – None**

### **Adjourn**

Fred Bunger motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:54 a.m., seconded by Sue Morris, *and the Committee voted to adjourn.*

**Exhibits Used:** December 4 Meeting Minutes, December 11 Meeting Minutes, December 17 Meeting Minutes, January 8 Meeting Minutes, CAP RFP Draft, Wellesley Climate Plan Two-Pager, ATM Warrant Article 31 (SEC), Municipal Joint Comments on Interim 2030 Clean Energy and Climate Plan, SEC Article 12 Revised Draft, Project Updates