



CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE

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Sustainability Director: Marybeth Martello

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CAC Analyst: Janet Mosley

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Laura Olton, Chair

Susan Morris, Vice Chair

Cynthia Mahr

Ellen Korpi

Martha Collins

Fred Bungler

Lise Olney

Climate Action Committee Meeting

May 6, 2022

Remote Zoom Meeting

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Sue Morris. Present were Climate Action Committee (CAC) members: Laura Olton (CAC Chair), Sue Morris (CAC Vice Chair), Lise Olney, Martha Collins, Fred Bungler, and Ellen Korpi. Also present were Marybeth Martello (Sustainability Director), Janet Mosley (Climate Action Committee Analyst), Phyllis Theerman, and Mary Gard. Absent: Cynthia Mahr.

Citizen's Speak: None

Wellesley Voluntary Building Energy Tracking and Reporting (BETR) Program

Janet Mosley provided a summary of the BETR program. Martha Collins moved to approve the BETR program as outlined in the Program Description document. Ellen Korpi seconded the motion, *and the Committee voted to approve the BETR Program Description.*

Ellen noted that a number of commercial building operators in Wellesley have asked Wellesley Municipal Light Plant (WMLP) for commercial energy efficiency rebates similar to those offered by investor owned utilities, despite WMLP's low electricity rates. The challenge is that the benefit of WMLP's low rates (more than 50% less at present) is realized in the operating budgets of these entities but the investment in energy efficiency and beneficial electrification is charged to capital budgets. The MLP is thinking about how we might address this perception issue by these commercial customers.

Climate Action Plan (CAP) Next Steps

Marybeth summarized the priority actions for the coming year from each Pathway in the CAP, as discussed during the April CAC retreat, and described ongoing work to implement those actions.

Buildings

- BETR Program

- Article 38 Implementation

Mobility

- EV Test Drive event on May 12
- EV Working Group
 - Gathering information on EV vehicle and charging infrastructure policy for municipal fleet and public
 - EV Working Group requested the CAC draft a sustainable fleet policy
- Promoting Sustainable Mobility Plan
 - May is Mobility Month

Energy

- Municipal solar and battery storage projects
- Air-source heat pump incentive program
- New energy efficiency incentive program
- MLP is working to hire a new staff member to guide environmental sustainability efforts.
- Plans to install Advanced Metering Infrastructure are moving forward

Waste

- Sue Morris is leading actions related to waste reduction, such as the food waste composting pilot at the High School

Natural Resources

- Collaborate with NRC, DPW, and others on:
 - Sustainable landscaping and electrification of landscaping equipment
 - Water conservation
 - Stormwater reduction
 - Protect and cultivate wetlands

Governance

- Community engagement
 - Marybeth is researching different education and engagement strategies
 - Prioritize opportunity to work with Wellesley Public Schools Science Curriculum Specialist Julie Boehm to help shape curriculum around sustainability for the month of October
- Advocacy
 - Next step is to create a CAC spreadsheet of legislative and executive actions of interest to help prioritize and track advocacy work

Minutes

Martha Collins requested to add “the need to increase bus ridership – a current area of focus for the Mobility Committee” to the Wellesley Public School transportation discussion topics listed in the March 11 meeting minutes. Ellen Korpi and Lise Olney suggested striking the phrase “only 3% of commercial customers opting out and” from the April 1 minutes as no one present could confirm the opt-out rate of commercial customers from the WECARE program. Ellen moved to approve the meeting minutes from March 11 and April 1 as amended, seconded by Martha, *and the Committee voted to approve the amended March 11 and April 1 meeting minutes.*

Additional Business

- CAC members were pleased with the updated energy efficiency and heat pump incentives recently approved by the MLP board.
- Lise encouraged CAC members to attend the May 24 Multi-Town Gas Leaks Initiative meeting.

Adjourn

Fred Bunger moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:08 A.M., seconded by Martha Collins, *and the Committee voted to adjourn.*