

Online Meeting, Thursday, 2/18/2021 @ 7:30 PM

Members in attendance: Stephen Harte, Julie Gervais, Sue McGown, Brian Bayer, Jen Atkins, Maria Costantini, Tom Philbin

Guest in attendance: Kathy Shinopoulos

January 21 Minutes: some adjustments and corrections were made. CG, MC, AIF

CEA Updates, Planning: Working Group met 2/17. MC reported. Discussed options to communicate the different levels of renewable energy. Use graphics, colors.) Looking at other towns' websites; Sharon's is a good example. Include Q&A video on website, WMC. Still awaiting Dept. of Public Utilities approval.

Discussed whether to communicate to residents now. Alternative suppliers are actively soliciting accounts. People may be confused. BB will draft a short notice this week, send out for review, put in Wire, WEAC website, FB page. Good Energy will help publicize, after DPU approval.

2 options for name of CEA: Westwood Power Choice, or Westwood Community Choice Electricity. MC will email to SH.

CEA WG will work on flyer next. Appointing a publicity subgroup of WEAC was discussed.

Purpose Statement: Add "members of WEAC, along with Energy Manager, also serve on sustainability subcommittees for all new municipal building projects". Add "fulfillment of priorities comprehensive plan." JA moves to amend our statement of purpose as drafted to present to the SelectBoard for approval, SM seconded, AIF

Need another town rule that sustainability subcommittees be established for all new muni bldgs. Incentives for grants drove the school sustainability subcommittee. Town bylaw? Get on SBd agenda. SH will reach out to Chris Cole to request our updated Purpose Statement and bylaw request be put on an upcoming SelectBoard agenda.

Sustainability initiatives: Energy Manager Tom Philbin reported on Thurston ventilation improvements, air purifiers. New school will have UV system in ventilation system. Top floor of TH now heated by electric heat pumps, new HVAC to be done on lower floors. Sheehan: lighting, HVAC, insulation planned. Much work planned at COA: doors, windows, insulation.

Approached Eversource regarding Electric Vehicle (EV) chargers. Looking at Public Service HQ, Libraries, COA, Rec Center, more at DPW. 1-2 each to start, up to 6 later. Applying to DOER for equipment grants.

Solar: needed anchor project with at least 2 MW. Is in final stages of negotiation with Meditech for parking lot canopies. Westwood would pay for use of land, be "off taker". Encouraging Meditech to build another 2MW of its own.

Add solar garage behind TH, PD, Thurston roof, still working on canopy on COA. Revisit HS canopy with School Committee? WEAC not authorized, but can seek public support. Stonehill College has total canopy coverage, can do at HS. School bus area visible from street, but would prevent need for snow removal.

Investigating Sheehan geothermal potential.

Westwood municipal buildings consume 5,000,000 kwh/year of electricity. Will increase as gas, oil, and gasoline equipment is replaced with electric.

Chief Silva is in favor of Tesla patrol cars- low maintenance, reliable.

Town Energy Audit grants: Most buildings recently had energy audits. Need more accurate energy consumption history by building to track usage, progress, emissions, harmonize BTUs, kwhs, CF of gas, propane, gals gasoline. Changes in building volume and usage add complexity. Estimate shift in consumption with further electrification. Town has 70 electricity accounts, bills are not all in the same units. Dual fuel heat in HS (oil/gas), missing records. Electric meters change, factors change. Oil use is based on delivery after use.

SM Work with TP on a job description. Seek intern from WHS or college. **CG** send contact info for Erica Mattison at BU,

Progress reports:

Amanda Phillips will be School Committee liaison. BB will be contact. Maya is looking for help with "Yes" campaign.

Adjourn 9:23