

Online meeting, Thursday, 3/25/21 @ 7:30 PM

Members in attendance: Steve Harte, Julie Gervais, Claire Galkowski, Kate La Croix, Brian Bayer, Maria Costantini, Sue McGown, Juliana Belding

Others in attendance: Kathy Shinopoulos

Routine business: February minutes amended and approved.

Topics discussed w/next steps:**CEA Update (MC):**

- 1) March 12 call with Daria Mark (Good Energy Director of Compliance):
 - a) 10% for default, then levels of 50% and 100% for opt ups in aggregation plan
 - b) New program name: Westwood Community Choice Electricity
 - c) There are new rules from DPU re: language used to describe concepts (e.g., “green”, “local”, etc.) that we need to attend to.
 - d) Daria should review and approve everything that we create re: WCCE before we publish it in order to ensure that it meets DPU requirements.
 - e) Even if we get DPU approval this spring, the bidding process could be delayed until fall, when WCCE rates can be expected to be more competitive with Eversource rates.
- 2) WCCE informational video:
 - a) Pete Kane is working on a script. WEAC will have input as well.
 - b) At least Chris Coleman and Daria Mark will need to approve the video content before we make it public.
- 3) Important that we are consistent in all messaging (digital, newspaper, etc.) we send out about WCCE.
- 4) If residents have questions about WCCE, they will be directed to Tish Healey on the website.

Westwood Day 2021:

- 1) Unclear what exactly the event will look like
- 2) WEAC would like to participate again
- 3) Composting
 - a) Find out if Black Earth would like to help us again. If so:
 - i) set up a meeting with WW Day coordinators to talk about suggesting that vendors use compostable food service materials—WEAC could volunteer to approach vetted vendors about this.
 - ii) Consider finding businesses to donate compostable materials that vendors could then use.
- 4) WEAC Vendor Village booth: to spread the word about WCCE among other topics.

Next Steps:

- 1) Get advice from people who have run similar events with compostable food materials (GC)

- 2) Inquire whether Black Earth would be willing to participate again and help move bins (SM)
- 3) If relevant, contact the rec department re: food court (KL)
- 4) Submit application for vendor village (SH)

**Public Forum for town board candidates (Select and Planning) hosted by the LWV on 4/14—
submission of questions from WEAC:**

- 1) Come up with 3 questions related to the comprehensive plan/sustainability or other environmental issues
- 2) One question could pertain to support for the hiring of a sustainability manager; others could pertain to items from the comprehensive plan that WEAC identifies as priorities
- 3) Perhaps a question regarding solar in town—high school canopy, etc.

Next steps:

- 1) Send questions to Marcia. (SH and JG)

Updates from previous meeting topics:

- 1) Chris Coleman was supportive of WEAC's ideas about a potential sustainability coordinator role. He will reach out to other towns to get more info. JG will get back in touch with him.
- 2) Police Chief Silva is very passionate about getting electric/hybrid vehicles for the Westwood PD and has a lot of data to show that it's a smart decision. SH will connect with Tom Philbin on this topic.
- 3) DOER grants—audit for green communities; SM worked with Tom Philbin on an intern job description; could potentially be a high school senior (independent project) or college student. Tom said he would reach out to the senior project coordinator at WHS.
- 4) SH spoke with Chris Coleman on gauging support from Select Board for sustainability coordinator role. Chris needs more time to investigate. SH will follow up.
- 5) Ground mount solar: info from CG. To date, the Planning Board has not provided much guidance on these projects. The Zoning Board of Appeals is currently inclined to say no to them because of aesthetics.
- 6) Potential for WEAC to submit a petition to the Select Board (and eventually the Planning Board) that would ask to remove the word "principal" from "principal building" in the bylaw regarding installation of residential, roof-mounted solar. CG will explore further with Planning Board.
Motion passed: WEAC is in favor of removing the word "principal" from the definition of residential, roof-mounted solar in the Westwood zoning bylaws.

Adjourned: 9:36 PM

Next meeting date: April 15, 2021