

WEAC MEETING MINUTES- May 2022

Online meeting, Thursday, 5/19/22 @ 7:30 PM

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

Others in attendance: Ellen Rollings

Routine business: Approval of April 2022 minutes.

Topics discussed w/next steps:

Letter to Hale Task Force status update:

- 1) Sue was told by the Town Administrator that the Select Board was going to meet at the end of April to talk about scheduling an info forum for the town; not sure what came of that, but no forum has been advertised yet.
- 2) 6/10: Hale will host a breakfast to provide information about the Hale campaign; it will be invitation only; unclear who will be invited.

Next steps: Sue will follow up again with Chris Coleman.

CCE Update:

- 1) Maria described some questions that the CCE working group had about the new version of Westwood Consumer Notification letter:
 - a. It is unclear what the 31% "RPS other" category means—what are the "other" renewable energy sources that are included? This info is not easy to locate.
 - b. Having a total renewable energy over 100% is difficult for people to understand.
 - c. The chart with the percent of renewable energy as a whole will be difficult for residents to understand.
- 2) The use of the letter is required by the DPU, and while we can change some of the names, no substantial changes to content can be made.
- 3) Suggestion to highlight the line of the chart that notes Voluntary Mass Class I renewable sources—it's the one that is most important to consumers as they decide whether and how much to opt up on their renewable energy sources.
- 4) We continue to wait for DPU approval and for the Eversource rates. The Eversource rate should come out sometime around the end of this month.

Westwood Day Update:

- 1) Kate gave update:
 - a. WEAC's Vendor Village application is complete.
 - b. Discussions are in progress with the Rec Dept on whether they will allow a centralized composting station, staffed by WEAC.
 - c. A donation request has been filed with Wegmans to see if they will provide the compostable service items.

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- d. A hand-out has been developed inviting food vendors to participate in the composting initiative. This will be given to restaurants that express interest in coming to Westwood Day, and they can then contact Kate to get more information and “place orders” for the food service items they will need.

Next steps: Kate will follow up with Wegmans and also make inquiries at Roche Brothers and Whole Foods about donation of materials or funds. She will also try to get information from former food vendors about approximately how many service items they have needed in past years.

Discussion of New Initiatives:

- 1) Rooftop solar and solar canopies/carports in the town
 - a. Invite Tom to give us an update.
- 2) Resiliency plan
 - a. New Sustainability Coordinator should take the lead.
 - b. WEAC can help by researching what Needham, Dedham, and Medfield have done in this area.
- 3) Replacement of herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers with less toxic and natural substitutes.
Focus on the effects on the ecosystem, not just on possible effects in children
 - a. Need info on alternatives.
 - b. Invite some speakers/experts-- approach it from both municipal and residential angles.
 - c. Find out what nearby towns are doing—start with Wellesley.
 - d. Maria, Kate, and Sue will start a subgroup on this.

Adjourned: 9:00 PM

Next meeting date: June 16, 2022 at 7:30 PM