

WEAC MEETING Minutes - September 2022

Online meeting, Thursday, 9/15/22 @ 7:30 PM

Members in attendance: Brian Bayer, Maria Costantini, Julie Gervais, Steve Harte, Kate La Croix (chair),

Others in attendance: none

Routine business: Minutes of the August 18, 2022, meeting were approved.

Topics discussed w/next steps:

Westwood day

1. The following invoices for expenses related to our participation in Westwood Day were unanimously approved. The amounts will be either reimbursed or billed to the town:
 - a. \$143.99 for pop up tent for WEAC booth (reimbursement to Kate La Croix)
 - b. \$42.99 for acrylic sign holders to put on tables (reimbursement to Kate La Croix)
 - c. \$111.36 for signage on the proposed solar canopies at the High School (reimbursement to Julie Gervais)
 - d. H\$130 for 2 banners for the recycling/trash/compost station ordered by Maria (billed to the town)
 - e. \$38.12 for informational signs and literature printed at Staples (reimbursement to Maria Costantini)
 - f. \$3, 614.49 for compostable service items purchased from Key City Compost for the food vendors at Westwood Day (invoice to be sent to the town)
2. Kate updated on the compostable products. Nine of the 11 vendors will be using compostable products donated by WEAC. She placed all the orders with Key City Compost and all the products have arrived. She will deliver them to the vendors in the next few days.
3. We will need 3 A frames for directional signs and for the solar canopies. Steve will bring them.

Solar Phase 2

1. Julie reported that the School Committee approved the Solar Canopies Project at the High School at their September 9 meeting. A presentation was given by the Westwood Energy Manager and the solar contractor Ameresco. The project was subsequently discussed by the Select Board at their September 12 meeting. There will be posters with renderings of the project at the WEAC booth on Westwood Day. A public meeting to present the project to the Westwood community is scheduled for October 12.

2. A motion was passed to authorize the Solar Subcommittee of WEAC to write and submit an informational article on the project and its benefits to the Hometown Weekly.
3. Two members of the public expressed concerns about the cutting of trees to make room for the canopies. Julie explained that the canopies will cover the existing parking lot and no trees will need to be cut at the high school.

CCE Update:

1. Maria reported there was another Zoom meeting of representatives of the six towns and Good Energy. (These are the towns who are on the same timeline as Westwood and are represented by Good Energy and include Cohasset, Marshfield, Scituate, Rochester, Uxbridge, and Westwood.) Patrick Roche (Good Energy) informed the participants that GE received an order (approval) for all 6 towns from the DPU the previous week and a request for a final compliance filing. The filing needs to be submitted by September 18. Maria said that there was a lot of frustration at the meeting given that this is the third filing request in 2022. Good Energy felt that it was important to receive the approval promptly after the filing because November is a good time to bid - Eversource will disclose the winter rate. National Grid will have just released their new rate.

According to Patrick, DPU is trying to get a lot done before the end of the year and the CEA may not be a priority. He encouraged the towns' representatives to go to their elected legislators and ask them to put pressure on the DPU to expedite the approval. Maria and a Cohasset resident agreed to revise a letter they had prepared for the first meeting of the towns. At this date the letter is being reviewed by Patrick.

Maria asked whether WEAC would be willing to sign the letter. A motion was passed to authorize Maria to sign the letter on behalf of WEAC.

2. **Next steps:** Maria will continue to work with the other towns to finalize and add signatures to the letter and to submit to the legislators. She will ask the Town Administrator and the Energy Manager to sign the letter on behalf of our town.

New Business:

1. Steve informed the Committee about a furniture donation program at the Dover Transfer Station. There is a dedicated trailer at the site where donated furniture is stored. It is eventually delivered to New Life in Walpole. He asked whether WEAC might want to run a similar program during the Westwood Recycling Days. WEAC members were in favor of the idea, but we will need to contact and get approval from DPW.
2. Maria brought up the idea of applying for a grant for a speaker on sustainable gardening and pollinators to the Westwood Cultural Council. The deadline is October 15. She would like to contact the library to see if they are interested in collaborating with us. A motion was passed to give Maria and Kate the authority to submit a proposal to the Cultural Council and work with the library or other organizations on this initiative as they see fit.

Adjourned: 9:00 PM

Next meeting: October 20, in person (Maria will reserve a room at the DPW)