

## WEAC MEETING Minutes -December 2022

Online meeting, Thursday, 12/15/22 @ 7:30 PM

**Members in attendance:** Kate La Croix (chair), Sue McGown, Maria Costantini, Leslie Greffenius, Anne Marie Kline, Juliana Belding (remote)

**Others in attendance:** Rob Gotti (Select Board), Ellen Larkin Rollings (Planning Board)

**Approval of the minutes:** the minutes of the October 20, 2022, meeting were approved pending clarification of the date of the October meeting of the Select Board when the solar projects were presented

### Topics discussed w/next steps

- 1. CCE Update:** Maria reported that Tom Philbin signed the electricity contract with the new supplier (identity unknown at this time) on December 14. The length of the contract is 21 months. The expected launch of the program is March 2023. She noted that the CCE rates are very competitive and shared a table with the rates and the renewable content for each choice (see below). The Eversource rate from January 1, 2023, to June 30, 2023, will be \$ 0.25649. The current rate is \$0.17871

Table with CCE products and prices FINAL (December 15 2022)

Type of renewable	Westwood Basic	Westwood Standard	Westwood Plus
Required MA Class I	22%	22%	22%
Required other	32%	32%	32%
Voluntary MA Class 1	0%	10%	46%
Total	54%	64%	100%
Rate (\$)	0.1631	0.1671	0.1785

**Next Steps:** Maria and others will work with Good Energy to inform the public about the program.

### 2. Solar Initiatives- Phase 2

1. Julie said that the High School canopy was approved by the School Committee. She explained that the Town needs to sign a PPA. This is being prepared and will be on the Select Board Agenda at a January meeting. The solar projects may be completed in the summer of 2023. If not, they will be completed in 2024.

2. The Proposed Phase 2 projects are:

1. WHS parking lot canopy
2. Thurston (roof panels added to what is already there)
3. Council on Aging parking lot canopy
4. Police/Town Hall solar garage

2. **Action items:** Julie will work with town staff to set up website for this project

Approved on January 19, 2023

### 3. Update on the pollinators/pesticides task force

Kate noted that WEAC has been concerned about the use of pesticides on the playing fields for several years. WEAC members have discussed this issue with DPW staff a few times. Their response was that the public expects certain standards for the fields and they get complaints if the fields are not well maintained. Kate brought to the Select Board the idea of a task force to raise awareness and study what actions other towns have taken to reduce use of pesticides. This topic was the main reason for Rob's participation. Sue mentioned that one of the goals of the Comprehensive Plan is "to Implement measures to protect the environment so that it is SUSTAINABLE and available for the next generation to enjoy". Rob suggested that WEAC develop a document that presents the problems and the potential paths the town could explore. The audience of the documents should not just be the Select Board but also the public. There was a suggestion to get in touch with the Conservation Commission because homeowners living near swamps, ponds, and streams are required to use organic practices.

#### 1. Action items:

- Kate will attend the next meeting of the Conservation Commission
- Kate and other WEAC members will write a piece to present to the Select Board that will 1) frame the problems and the questions that need to be answered and 2) propose possible options to explore with the objective to seek alternatives to pesticide use and the cost associated with these options.
- WEAC members will search for a potential speaker on gardening for pollinators; (Maria will contact the Garden Club to get suggestions.)

#### 3. Next articles for the Hometown Weekly. WEAC members voted to approve the following articles:

CCE: 1 article in January and possibly a second one in February depending on the need

Pollinator garden article to introduce the issues and a speaker in February-March

"Did you know?" Article about the clean -up before Earth Day

#### 4. Other businesses

1. WEAC members discussed possible actions to take to push for the conservation restriction of Hale. There were two ideas: 1) invite Hale's Director to better understand the process and 2) do a campaign in coordination with the spring clean-up. No decisions were made.
2. Update from Ellen about warrant articles from the Planning Board that will focus on reducing the environmental impacts of new construction such as requiring charging stations, the use of renewable energy, higher energy efficiency, and tree conservation.

**Adjourned:** 9:00 PM

**Next meeting date:** January 19, 2023

Approved on January 19, 2023