

WEAC MEETING Minutes – May 2024

In person meeting, Thursday – 5/16/24 @ 7:30 PM

Members in attendance: Kate La Croix (chair), Steve Harte, Leslie Greffenius, John Isberg, Julie Gervais, Gita Singh

Others in attendance: Rob Gotti, Select Board

Routine business: Approval of the March minutes. The minutes of the March 21, 2024 meeting were unanimously approved after making some corrections.

Topics discussed w/next steps:

1. Repair Café 4/27 recap and plans for the next one

- a. There is an opportunity to hold the next Repair Cafe at Fox Hill Village or Westwood CoA in October or November 2024
 - i. Steve and Sue met with Lina at the CoA, who said that the conference room adjacent to the last Repair Cafe location could also potentially be used for future Repair Cafes.
- b. Kate collected feedback from attendees, volunteers and WEAC members after the April 2024 Repair Cafe. Key points:
 - i. The intake form seemed a bit long, and it might be helpful to have a data entry person sitting at the intake desk (maybe use a Google Form or Sheet for entry).
 - ii. A color coding system would help to streamline intake, for example all lamp repairs could be given a blue tag, and then a number based on order of arrival.
- c. The April 2024 Repair Cafe brought in \$150 in donations.

2. Vote on reimbursements to various WEAC members for Repair Café supplies

- a. Reimbursements were unanimously approved for:
 - i. \$403.33 to Steve for equipment expenses for the April 2024 Repair Cafe
 - ii. \$237.00 to Kate for signage expenses for the April 2024 Repair Cafe.

3. Update on a recent call with Good Energy and Town re: plan for the next round of CCE

- a. John provided an update from the May 7 (pre-bid) and May 14, 2024 (bid) meetings.
- b. Other Westwood representatives attending these meetings were Tom Philbin and Chris Coleman.

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- c. Other towns present at these meetings included: Marshfield, Cohasset, Scituate, and Rockland.
- d. Three suppliers participated: Direct Energy, Dynergy, Constellation
 - i. Dynergy did not provide a final price in time for the bid meeting
- e. Prices were given for 12, 24, and 36 months
- f. Direct Energy won the bid, with Westwood electing to go with the 36 month term with a price of \$0.1387 (per kWh). This was approved by the town on April 14, 2024.
- g. The pricing format is:
 - i. \$0.1387 for Westwood Basic (meets MA renewable energy requirements)
 - ii. \$0.14289 for Westwood Standard (i adds 10% renewable energy (MA Class I RECs)
 - iii. \$0.15193 for Westwood Plus adds renewable energy (MA Class 1 RECs) to total 100%
- h. Messaging to community:
 - i. Note that prices are going down so there is a chance that Eversource could be cheaper in the short run, however the current CCE provides savings and price stability in the long run.
 - ii. Will need to communicate with residents in the fall of 2024 because the contract goes into effect in January 2025.

4. Discussion about and possible vote on WEAC member and leader term lengths

- a. Proposed change to term of office for committee members from two consecutive terms to three consecutive terms wherein a member can serve three terms consecutively unless there is a volunteer to take their seat. This is important for continuity of projects and institutional knowledge.
- b. Proposed change to term of office for committee leaders from two consecutive terms to three consecutive terms.
- c. Both changes were unanimously approved by WEAC.
- d. **Action items:**
 - i. **Rob will find out the process for submitting this to Tish**
 - ii. **Steve will send these updates to Tish and ask about next steps.**
- e. Additional notes on leadership:
 - i. Kate's term as Chair is ending in June and at June's meeting WEAC will vote on leadership
 - ii. Steve is agreeable to continue as Co-Chair.
 - iii. Maria is agreeable to continue as Secretary.

5. Discussion about and possible vote on recycling barrel stickers for distribution in town

- a. The Select Board approved for WEAC to apply stickers to recycling barrels.
- b. The stickers are 8x10 in with pictures of the top 5 recycling contaminants and clear text that plastic bags are not allowed.
- c. Kate obtained quotes on sticker printing from Minuteman, Tiger Press, and Norwood Printing. Minuteman was by far the least expensive.
- d. Discussion around how many stickers to print:
 - i. While it is cheapest to print a large number (5,000), the Committee discussed that it would be ideal to start with a smaller pilot to see how much time and effort it takes to apply the stickers and what the optimal strategy for doing this is.
 - ii. **Final decision was to print 1,000 stickers for \$775.**
- e. Discussion around distribution strategy:
 - i. Steve suggests to get WM routes and have WEAC volunteers to drive the route on pick-up day and apply stickers on bins when they are at the curb.
 - ii. Also think about having Neighborhood Captains who could organize application in their locales. Westwood HS Youth Climate Council might also be a good source of helpers for this. However, most Committee members agreed that a WEAC member should be present at all times during the application process.
 - iii. Talking points in case WEAC members are questioned by homeowners during application:
 1. We are trying to drive education to decrease fines from recycling contamination in Westwood.
 - iv. **Action item: John volunteers to investigate WM routes/days. He will ask Todd Korchin and Brendan Ryan about routes.**

6. Brief recap of WHS Youth Climate Action Committee's recent speaker event

- a. WEAC provided WHS Youth Climate Action Cte \$250 for the speaker event.
- b. Eric Fisher, meteorologist from WBEZ News 4 presented to students in WHS Little Theater, which was packed.
- c. Kate has photos of the event.
- d. Nate Rycroft, WHS teacher liaison for WHS Youth Climate Action Cte sent an appreciative note after the event
- e. Side note:
 - i. Can WEAC fundraise for specific events as a town board? **Action item: Rob will clarify with Town Counsel**

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7. Initial discussion about a town-wide foam recycling collection

- a. Steve provided an update on town-wide recycling of rigid polystyrene.
- b. Company in Bridgewater runs a collection in Medfield and charges \$400 for a whole trailer.
- c. Dover might be starting to do a collection, so potential for collaboration with Dover—still in initial discussion stage. Steve will stay in contact with the person in Dover who is planning this.
- d. WEAC will need to bring this to Westwood DPW and also determine if DPW would pay for this.
 - i. The state incentivizes towns to have recycling days, re-use events, library of things, etc. and provides Recycling Dividend Points (RDP) for this to town DPWs.
 - ii. Could Westwood DPW get RDPs for foam recycling collection and hence fund this program? TBD

8. Initial discussion about Westwood Day 2024

- a. Two components of WEAC presence at Westwood Day: info booth in Vendor Village and composting program at the food court.
- b. It is essential for ALL 9 WEAC members and 3 additional adults to be able to help with this event in order to run both components. 12 people are REQUIRED in total for this.
- c. **Action Item: All WEAC members should let Kate know if they can commit to this on Sept 21, particularly 11am-1pm for composting.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.