

## Meeting Minutes

### Weston Sustainable Committee

January 08, 2019

Sustainable Committee Members	Present	Sustainable Committee Members	Present
Phoebe Beierle (PB)	Yes	Ed Heller (EH)	Yes
Walter Chaffee (WC)	Yes	Sandy Kendall (SK)	Yes
Leslie Glynn (LG)	Yes	Katharina Wilkins (KW) – Acting Chair	Yes
Victor Guzman (VG)	yes		

Others Present: Debbie Slotpole (SWAG)

No.	Description	Action
1.	A meeting of the Sustainability Committee (SusCom) was called to order at 7 PM in the Town Hall, as duly posted.	–
2.	There were no public comments.	All
3.	Meeting Minutes for the 12 December 2018 SusCom meeting were approved as submitted.	All
4.	Members of the Committee were reminded of the need to complete the swearing in process with the Town Clerk’s office, as required for appointed committees.	–
5.	<p>Solect proposals for PV arrays on the Field School and Middle School buildings were discussed. (Notes taken by KW summarizing the presentation by Solect and Power Option at the 07 January 2019 School Committee are appended to these minutes.)</p> <p>It was agreed that further consideration of the Middle School roof site would have to follow completion of the facilities planning under discussion by the Weston School Committee that would affect the configuration of the roof. Similar concerns would also apply to any consideration of the use of the High School roof as well.</p>	All
6.	<p>It was further agreed that the Field School roof proposal should be encouraged and is endorsed by the SusCom for consideration at this time for several reasons, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Favorable utility incentives, which will decrease over time,</li> <li>• Structural readiness of the Field School building, which was constructed to accommodate the addition of a PV array,</li> <li>• Predicted longevity of the new roof.</li> </ul> <p>Issues discussed as open for final decisions by the School Committee and the Town include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Details of the financial terms and protections to be included in the proposal,</li> <li>• Information on esthetics of the proposed installation to enable impact evaluation and for public review.</li> </ul> <p>Members of the SusCom expressed an interest in and a willingness to participate in the review of the proposals when received.</p>	All

7.	<p>There was discussion of the role of SusCom and other committees in the implementation of sustainability projects such as the PV array on the Field School roof. Areas for assistance by SusCom, in addition to advocacy for the project include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying potential competitive vendors,</li> <li>• Obtaining references from Solect customers, especially schools.</li> </ul> <p>This work would be done in coordination with the Facilities Department and the PBC. It is most likely that the Facilities Department would oversee project execution.</p>	–
8.	<p>Discussion of the roles of the SusCom in the context of other parties involved in the implementation of a school-based PV array followed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was agreed that the School Committee was the pivotal decision maker for a project on school property.</li> <li>• Project implementation oversight responsibility would likely rest with the Facilities Dept.</li> <li>• Due to the town wide interest in Green Community and deployment of PV arrays, Town Purchasing Dept/Town Manager would be involved in the deliberations and contract reviews.</li> </ul>	
9.	<p>Follow up assignments and activities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A letter in support of the Field School PV array installation will be drafted by Katharina Wilkins and Sandy Kendall.</li> <li>• Phoebe Beierle will research and share other towns experience with climate action plans.</li> <li>• As the School Committee representative, Ed Heller will explore further the organizational mechanics of a school PV installation project taking into account all involved organizations and responsible parties.</li> </ul>	<p>KW SK PB EH</p>
10.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In support of refining and understanding the roles of the SusCom, all members were asked to review the committee’s enabling Charter.</li> <li>• KW agreed to provide to the members relevant newsletters from MAPC and Green Community Division.</li> </ul>	<p>All KW</p>
11`.	<p>Important committee roles were discussed. The main objective and immediate next step is for the committee to develop a Sustainability Action Plan (SAP). Additional action items include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing baseline information for Weston.</li> <li>• Identifying opportunities and goals.</li> <li>• Assisting in policy development.</li> <li>• Periodic reporting against the goals.</li> <li>• Public outreach and education.</li> </ul>	
12.	<p>Criteria for sustainability projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health impacts.</li> <li>• Cost benefits / reduction.</li> <li>• Quality of Life improvements.</li> </ul>	
13.	<p>Related Activities: It was noted that a series of three presentations is scheduled at the first Parish Church on topics pertaining to climate science. One of these is a SWAG presentation on 30 January 2019 at 7 PM.</p>	All

14.	Frequency and schedule of future SusCom meeting was discussed. It was agreed to try to schedule meetings every 2 weeks on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM at Town Hall. (Secretary's note: Consider: Bi-monthly would possibly be better for scheduling around other meetings that are scheduled e.g. "3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month.)	All
15.	Attachment to the minutes: Notes from the January 7 <sup>th</sup> Solect / Power Options presentation to the School Committee	KW

Respectfully submitted: Ed Heller.

### Appendix: Solect Presentation to School Committee – Notes (KW)

- Solect presented to the School Committee on January 7<sup>th</sup>, after having visited Field School and WMS
  - Both sites have good feasibility with Field School needing slightly more expensive ballasted racks, and Middle School may need another look at the wide beams spanning over the gym roof.
- Block 1 has not yet filled for Eastern MA, so rates will still be very favorable if we act swiftly
- We currently pay \$.12 per kWh for electricity
- If we achieve Block 2 timing for the proposed projects, we would be able to lock in rates of
  - \$.035 kWh for the middle school, producing about 10% of the building's needs (it is our biggest energy consumer!)
  - \$.047 kWh for the Field School, producing about 79% of its needs
  - Rates go up by a bit more than a penny per each subsequent block
- Potential issues with the middle school building were discussed:
  - If roof maintenance is needed, the solar panels may need to be taken down, and Weston would be responsible for that cost.
  - Weston would be allowed to let the panels be non-producing for 14 days over the 20 year term. After that, Weston would be paying for the contracted electricity delivery rate, even if no electricity is being produced/delivered, and we would have to purchase the equivalent from the grid.
  - Weston Middle School may be renovated or substantially altered, pending the master plan currently being considered by the Recreation Master Plan Committee, which will, for example, evaluate the available gym space. This may impact a solar array that was installed and is on a 20-year contract.
- It is possible to go forward with just Field School to get in on an early block
- We should continue to assess feasibility at other buildings
  - Open question: How far out is roof maintenance for the HS?
  - Does it make sense to pre-poner roof maintenance to be able to add PV arrays on the HS? Solect said it would be a good building for it, and it is perhaps less likely to undergo major alterations, compared to the middle school (perhaps depending on the part of the building? Gym space is apparently a big issue, so maybe that would change).