

Meeting Minutes

Weston Sustainability Committee

February 6, 2020

Sustainability Committee Members	Present	Sustainability Committee Members	Present
David Ayer (DA)	No	Sandy Kendall (SK)	No
Phoebe Beierle (PB)	Yes	Rachael Stewart (RS)	No
Leslie Glynn (LG)	Yes	Katharina Wilkins (KW) – Chair, SB rep	Yes
Chris Jyllka (CJ)	Yes		

RESIDENTS PRESENT: Heather Hathaway (North Ave); Debbie Slotpole (Westerly Rd)

No.	Description	Action
1.	A meeting of the Weston Sustainable Committee was held, as duly posted, in the Town Hall and called to order at 7:00 p.m.	
2.	Minutes of the January 7, 2020 meeting were reviewed and approved with minor amendments.	
3.	<p>Our request for a sustainability/energy coordinator on town staff</p> <p>Town manager has included a request for an FTE in his current budget draft. It is anticipated that, given grant monies available, the role could pay for itself, and other savings would accrue from their work in the form of reduced utility bills. Regarding Weston’s energy management, “Doing nothing does not come without a cost”, and many efficiencies and opportunities to reduce Weston’s energy budget could be tackled with this new staff position.</p> <p>A discussion of the position is scheduled for the 3/5 FinCom meeting.</p>	ALL
4.	<p>Green Communities Grant Application</p> <p>PB reports on meeting with Facilities team, which is applying for a ~\$200,000 Green Communities grant based on the Rise energy assessment done in the summer. The project scope involves lighting retrofitting at three different town buildings (efficient bulbs and fixtures), skillfully selected by the facilities staff from the larger set of audit results, to maximize grant availability and project feasibility.</p> <p>For the proposed work, the town anticipates contributing \$30-50K, a cost that are justified by the expected savings of ~\$50K annually due to reduced electricity bills. Facilities team has everything ready; PB will review the application before they submit.</p> <p>LG raises the issue of e-waste and making sure we take steps to have the disused materials donated, recycled or otherwise responsibly disposed of.</p> <p>Motion to support Facilities in this grant application and project unanimously passed.</p> <p>The grant deadline is due by 3/27/2020.</p>	PB
5.	<p>CCA Update</p> <p>CJ updated on status and next steps. CJ, Debbie Slotpole of SWAG, KW and Leon G., heard presentations from the two brokers in our area. Both seemed good, similar; The group is currently reaching out to towns who have worked with either firm for references and feedback. The decision on the choice of broker is expected to be made soon.</p> <p>Next step for the working group: Devise aggregation plan with broker, and define options for residents. Then: DOER and DPU approve. Suscom may call upon SWAG to help with outreach to residents during of this long process (18-24 months in total).</p>	CJ
6.	<p>MVP Grant Update</p> <p>Governor publicly announced grant awards today!</p>	SK, PB

	<p>PB met with KLA on Hazard Mitigation Plan (part of MVP). Final report will be delivered soon. Our planning grant calls for two outreach meetings with youth. PB and DA held a listening session during club meeting time at the high school. Kids were interested in brainstorming solutions. Another event may happen around Earth Day, possibly joint venture with Cambridge School of Weston. PB talking with folks at school about possible field trip.</p> <p>Now that the information was officially released, we will publicize the grant award. SK will draft brief article about the award and some of the work done thus far for submission to the Town Crier. Photos from youth and adult listening sessions may be submitted too.</p>	
7.	<p>Pay as You Throw Working Group update</p> <p>DA, our rep to the group, shared notes with KW before the meeting: The working group will visit other local transfer stations; they understand that education is key, whatever system is proposed; food waste being 30% of solid waste they will look into Black Earth Composting; they will also explore regulations around private haulers, which they understand is a distinct issue from transfer station management. They'll present preliminary report to select board at end of March.</p> <p>LG cautions to be sure to include public feedback before any plan gets too far developed.</p>	DA
8.	<p>New idea</p> <p>LG shares that Planning Board is going to be reviewing plans for Weston's first net-zero energy home. Committee discussed ways to acknowledge, or "credit" people for taking significant green steps—solar panels, electric car, geothermal pumps, etc. A green star? Something to think about in the coming months, perhaps in line with campaigns around other issues like CCA.</p>	ALL
9.	<p>Other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PB went to Weston Emergency Reserves Corp meeting. They are very supportive of Suscom work. There are likely areas to collaborate. • KW will run town cleanup drive again this year (as SWAG member). • KW will go to the water working committee meeting next Monday at 9 a.m. • PB reports that the PBC was concerned about some elements of the recent Water Report. • LG says Planning Board hosting a dark sky seminar, which will be televised. <p>FUTURE MEETINGS February 25 March 17</p>	

Respectfully submitted: Sandy Kendall