



Sustainability Commission – Net Zero 2050 Planning Subcommittee –

Net Zero 2050 Planning Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2024
Meeting Time: 12:00 PM
Meeting Location: via ZOOM (recorded)

Attendees: Ken Horton, Charlotte Weigel

Guest: Marybeth Martello Sustainability Director, Town of Wellesley

Minutes:

Started – 12:00pm

- Agenda Item 1: Talk with Marybeth Martello Sustainability Director, Town of Wellesley.
 - Marybeth gave background on climate action in Wellesley
 - Climate Action Committee with GHG emissions reduction goals started in 2010 – first known as Energy Action
 - They revised their goals as they hit milestones in 2014 and 2021
 - They joined Green Communities in 2018 which started to build relationships, but there still had to be a lot of nudging and facilitation to participate.
 - In 2021 the town adopted the state Net Zero 2050 and interim emissions reduction goals - decided they needed a roadmap for this
 - Climate action plan (CAP) was needed for the process that brought stakeholders together – including department heads with roles and actions – giving ownership over issues was extremely valuable
 - In town meetings, executive director and other department heads talk about climate
 - CAP
 - Established 6 working groups – in each a department head was paired with a climate action committee member,
 - Climate action committee consists of those 6 members + members from boards, colleges, businesses, community members
 - They only had \$50K to work on the CAP that the executive director put aside from the town, and hired a consultant, so they had to do a lot inhouse with town staff and volunteers - Marybeth recommends getting more than \$50K for a CAP
 - Some of funding came from CPC. They tried to get an MVP action grant to fund CAP, but that was a very competitive year, where Weston and Concord were awarded funding
 - To guide the discussion in the working groups, the consultant used rubrics to rank actions – this was too complicated, and when they introduced the framework to the entire group they had to go back
 - For example, in the Energy Working Group, there were tons of actions they could take on and it was arduous to evaluate and rank – unnecessarily complicated
 - They ended up taking over the facilitation – and they changed the allocation of funds because they could do that themselves
 - The timeline for creating the plan was linked to the amount of money that they had – they could not take more than 6-9 months of the consultants time
 - They also used their Sustainability Analyst, Janet Moseley, to assist KLA (consultants) with analysis and GHG modeling
 - The plan creates ownership for groups like DPW, MLP and facilities management

- Marybeth described her role as the Sustainability Director
 - Wellesley does not have a town manager, they have all different boards
 - She reports directly to the Executive Director – very important to have direction from top leadership to different boards that she needs to be included in meetings
 - Many relationships were already there – ex. With building department, they already had guidelines for all electric construction, so that made it easy to pass the specialized stretch code

- Marybeth described the role of the Wellesley Municipal Light Plant (WMLP)
 - There was initial resistance from WMLP to Green Communities work, but not the CAP
 - Had to negotiate with MLP on some things because they were not totally invested in sustainability – they were focused on operations.
 - MLP had to meet with consultant, Marybeth and the analyst to work out what targets they could set
 - Debated what targets could set for the MLP portion of the CAP – especially on what they would say they could commit to for 2030, 2040 and 2050
 - One WMLP Board member is on the Climate Action Committee, and headed the Energy Working Group for CAP
 - MLP not a huge fan of distributed solar – also needed to negotiate on what they felt comfortable with – they are now rolling out solar incentives for residents
 - MLP is on board with electrification – with a mission of beneficial electrification

- Goalsetting and implementation of CAP
 - The plan facilitates implementation – gives a sense of legitimacy to justify emissions reduction suggestions and initiatives
 - They are finding things that they did not include – ex. Embodied carbon – when they revise they will include this
 - CAP is a living document
 - They have a dashboard on their website that tracks actions and metrics – Janet updates annually by going to department heads for updates
 - Working groups that were part of the CAP do not meet now
 - Key department heads and climate action committee meet regularly on different initiatives

- Energy coaching
 - Run by MLP
 - Lisa Wolf, Sustainability Director of WMLP, Marybeth, Janet meet weekly
 - They have two Climate Action Committee members who are coaches – they have ~8 coaches total
 - Monthly they meet with coaches
 - All training is through HeatSmart Alliance now
 - How they find residents who are ready to update – there is an outreach working group that meets weekly to strategize – they have expanded a lot to advertise in every newsletter, online newspaper, Facebook page
 - They present to different groups
 - They are hiring a company to do door-to-door canvassing – Homeworks Energy
 - Use assessor’s data to consider neighborhood pilot on homes that use oil
 - They have building energy roundtable biannually with commercial property owners and colleges (Wellesley College has their own CAP, Babson does not).
 - Set up webpages to help people on weatherization, electrification incentives

- Agenda Item 2: Any other business
 - No other business

Next Net Zero 2050 Planning Subcommittee meeting: TBD

Respectfully submitted,

- **Charlotte Weigel** Sustainability Commission Member

Minutes approved by Net Zero 2050 Planning Subcommittee, May, 30, 2024.