

Meeting Minutes (*approved 3/12/24, 5-0-0*)
Energy and Climate Committee
January 10, 2024, 7:30 pm via Zoom

*In compliance with the revised Open Meeting Law requirements, this meeting was live streamed via Zoom.

Members: Ellen Tohn, Anne Harris, Bill Huss, Tom Sciacca, Harvey Michaels
Associate member: John Harper
Wayland Sustainability Manager Abigail Shute
Guest: Paul Gromer, Peregrine Energy Group

Ellen Tohn called the meeting to order and read notice preamble when quorum was present at 7:35 PM
Public comment: None

Progress Report on Wayland Electricity Choice, plan for green electricity options

Paul Gromer, the Town's consultant on the Wayland Electricity Choice program from Peregrine Energy announced the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) approved Wayland's plan. The DPU had a few questions and requested changes, which he noted are standard. The document, revised by us, must be returned to the DPU within the next two weeks. Paul will send to Ellen to share with Town Manager and Select Board as needed for approval. Changes should be returned by Jan. 29.

Paul presented a schedule (see attached slides). Ellen notes we need to decide if we will have a spring launch or wait until next year. Key pieces of the timeline are: 1) the support process, which will involve the Town Manager and Select Board, 2) public education phase, and 3) program launch. Dates in the schedule will be determined from the point at which the supply contract is signed. Before the signing, Peregrine will write an RFP with town input, put out for bid and present proposals to the Town. The bids will contain indicative prices for various percentages of renewables in the electricity. The Town will review these and determine whether they would like to move forward. If so, the bidders will respond with final pricing.

Committee questions and comments - Paul Gromer's answers (PG)

JH - How many other towns have been approved recently? PG - 10-15 towns are looking to move forward now.

JH - When was the last time a town went to market? PG - Peregrine did 10-12 towns last year and will do the same next year.

JH - What are the possible terms of the contract? PG - 1, 2 or 3 years. He will get bids for all. Most new launches tend to do two years.

HM - Could we do creative pricing that would encourage heat pumps or EVs, like time-of-use pricing vs. a fixed rate? ET suggests Harvey and Paul discuss this and present to the Committee at the Feb. meeting. The pressing issue now is to set the timeline.

Committee discusses a possible adder, a small added cost to the electricity price charged consumers to fund related options. Uses could be: fund other renewable or efficiency projects in town; purchase additional renewable energy in the municipal electricity supply; increase the amount and/or sourcing of renewable energy in the electricity choice options offered customers; fund additional time spent by

Sustainability Manager. If the town chooses to include an adder it must be disclosed to the public. Town manager Michael McCall would want to weigh in.

Paul notes that the Executable pricing meeting date is usually set first and the RFP is released two weeks prior. Ellen suggests we schedule a tentative meeting for Feb. 8, 7:30pm for the Committee to review indicative pricing. Ellen and Abby will brief Michael to see if he would like to move forward with Paul's proposed schedule. Anne moves: "The Energy and Climate Committee recommends to the Town Manager and Select Board that Wayland pursue a schedule that would enable us to launch the Wayland Electricity Choice (community electricity aggregation) program in May 2024." Tom seconds. The motion passes 5-0-0 with Tom, Bill, Anne, Ellen and Harvey voting aye.

Abigail Shute, Sustainability Manager - Review of current projects

-Accelerating Climate Resiliency Grant - Search for Senior Resident Volunteers

Wayland received this multi-town grant to learn how increasing heat due to climate change affects seniors. She is looking for seniors to be a community liaison. It's a grant-funded position from Feb. - Dec. 2024, 8-12 hours/week. There will a stipend paid at the end. Abby asks us to think of candidates.

-MAPC MetroWest Regional School Fleet Electrification Study - First Meeting Update

This group will meet monthly to explore regional opportunities for electric bus funding.

-Loker Elementary Heat Pump Rebate - currently being reviewed by Eversource.

-Metropolitan Area Planning Council Technical Assistance Program (TAP)- Additional Information

Abby confirms that the technical assistance that would be provided under this grant would be from MAPC staff. We will likely not apply.

-Town Hall ESCO (Energy Services Company)- Update on comprehensive summary of the system functions - still completing

-Sustainability Page on Town Website - Abby has updated the list of current projects and campaigns posted

-Town Census will go out next week. This will contain a blurb about the PlugIn campaign to promote heat pumps, solar and community solar. This is a wonderful vehicle for getting the word out.

Progress Report on Town Meeting warrant articles being recommended to the Select Board by the Committee

Ellen reports the Select Board voted to include all three of the Committee's proposed articles in The Spring Town Meeting warrant:

- 1) That the Town adopt the Massachusetts opt-in Specialized building energy code.
- 2) Amend the 2021 Town Meeting warrant article that authorized the Town to enter into a power purchase agreement (PPA) to purchase electricity from a solar project to be located at Loker Elementary School for a term of up to 25 years (up from 20 years as approved by the 2021 Town Meeting).
- 3) Authorize the Town to enter into a power purchase agreement (PPA) to purchase electricity from a solar project to be located at the new Council on Aging building for a term of up to 25 years.

For the Specialized Code, Ellen and Abby will meet with Ben Keefe, Facilities Manager, to discuss the new code and its implications and then will meet with the PMBC (Permanent Municipal Building Committee), Town Manager and other relevant boards and committees.

The Council on Aging PPA article may also include language to authorize the Select Board to enter into PPAs on other sites that could support small solar projects. We will work with the Finance Committee to finalize language on the articles before the Select Board will vote.

Win Mallett and Janot Mendler de Suarez, Wayland Residents

Win gave a short presentation to introduce the idea of a "solar compact", a housing development that would be solar powered, superinsulated and designed with conservation and climate resilience in mind. Janot explains it could be medium density housing that would fill the gap between homes and condos, and would be in line with Wayland's Climate Action Mobilization Plan. They have a suitable 8-acre parcel now. There are about 15 other parcels of this size in town. He is working on a petitioners' article for Town Meeting that would allow such developments as of right. Tom is very impressed with the concept and would like to see them write something up that could be distributed; he would like more information. Ellen notes these changes will involve the zoning and planning boards.

PLUG-IN INITIATIVE WITH ACTON, NATICK & FRAMINGHAM.

A survey was distributed to assess community interest in and knowledge about solar, community solar and heat pump technologies. Ellen presented survey results and walked Committee members through the program landing page. We are looking for more people to do testimonials on their experiences with these technologies - she encourages Committee members to post their own on the Energize Wayland site.

Sustainability Event at the Library - Thursday, Feb. 29

Energize Wayland is sponsoring a community discussion at the Library on Thursday, Feb. 29 to introduce Abby Shute and share the many sustainability actions happening in town like the PlugIn initiative; heat pump, solar, and home energy coaching; the Wayland Electricity Choice aggregation program and more.

Anne Harris moved to approve the minutes of the 12/20/23 meeting. Tom Sciacca seconded and the motion passed, 5-0-0.

Tentative meeting on Thursday Feb. 8 at 7:30 with Peregrine Energy to discuss indicative pricing for Wayland Electricity Choice program.

The next full Committee meeting is February 14 (second Wednesday).

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Minutes taken by Anne Harris

Wayland Electricity Choice

Planning for program launch
January 10, 2024



DPU order approving the aggregation plan

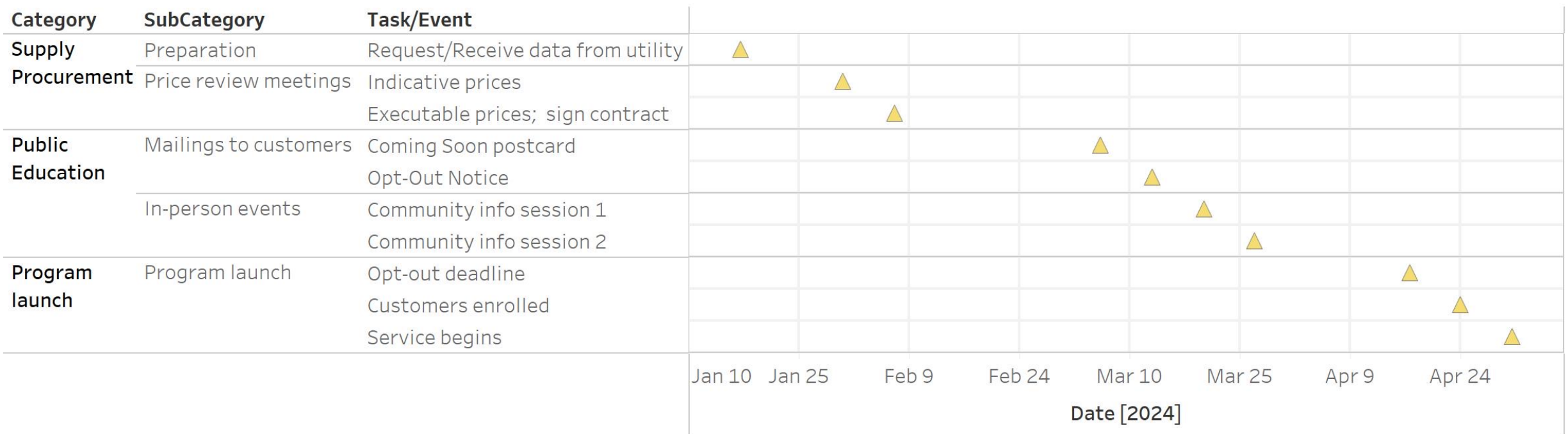
On December 29, 2023, the DPU issued an order approving the Town's plan. The order requires a host of small changes which must be filed by Jan. 29. The great majority of the changes are not substantive.

The most significant change concerns the operational adder. The DPU has reduced the uses of adder funds as follows:

- 1) personnel costs associated with a staff position, one of the responsibilities of which is to assist with the Program;
- 2) REC purchases;
- ~~3) electrification of energy end uses such as heating and cooling;~~
- ~~4) enhanced customer education regarding energy bills and the environmental impacts of electricity use; and~~
- ~~5) other forms of support for local energy projects that create benefits for Program participants.~~

Illustrative launch timeline

Timeline



This is an illustrative timeline listing major events. A final timeline will be created once the supply procurement is scheduled.³

Supply Procurement Overview

The supply procurement establishes:

- Program launch date
- Supplier
- Price
- Percentage of renewables in the Standard product

Steps:



Price review meetings

Bid information:

Price by supplier and term (e.g., 1 year, 2 years, 3 years)

For both, the price for:

- Basic supply (power plus all required RECs)
- Additional RECs

Decisions on executable bid day:

1. Whether to accept a bid.

2. If *yes*...:

- Term
- Supplier
- The type and percentage of voluntary RECs in the Standard option

Public Education Overview

Deliverables and events are set out in the Education and Outreach Plan submitted to the DPU.

Much of the content flows from the decisions made in the executable price meeting

Things to start on early – once the procurement meetings are set:

- Public information sessions - schedule
- Coming soon postcard – content & design
- Town Manager's cover letter that is mailed with the opt-out notice (*if desired*)