



WESTFORD ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) CHARGING STATIONS WORKING GROUP Meeting of October 13, 2022

Approved on 11/29/2022

A meeting of the Westford Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations Working Group (EVWG) was held at 7:00 PM on October 13, 2022, virtually via Zoom.

The following WG members were present: Chauncey Chu, Gerry DiBello, Tom Teller, Bob Shaffer (joined at 7:13 pm)

Town Staff present: Sierra Pelletier, Assistant Planner

1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm.

2. Old/New Business

- Old business: The near final MA 2023 residential and commercial buildings Redlined Energy Stretch Code Regulations has been issued by the DOER. Tom noted that the definitions he created that will potentially be added to Westford's zoning bylaws do not follow the updated Stretch Code definitions. He will revise these definitions to conform to the new Stretch Code and electrical code language. Chauncey noted that the final Stretch Code language definition defines the term "Make Ready." Tom will also revise that term to conform to the Stretch Code definition in the group's suggested zoning bylaw change document.
- New business: Gerry reported that he was invited to do a presentation on EV chargers and programs at a board meeting of the Hildreth Hills Condominium Association. Part of his presentation concerned how a condominium can install EV level 2 charging stations using a MassEVIP program grant to pay for 60% of the cost of the charging equipment. The MassEVIP grant combined with a National Grid grant that pays infrastructure cost can substantially reduce the cost of the installation. The Condo Board members wanted to know if charging stations could be made private so that only residents could use them. The MassEVIP program does allow this provision. The Group would like Gerry to present to other condo associations should the opportunity arise.

3. Follow-up from presentation to Planning Board at October 3rd meeting

- Chauncey reported on the progress of our research and proposed zoning bylaw changes in his presentation to the Planning Board on October 3rd. Our group plans to have our suggested amendments finalized so they can go through the public hearing process before the spring Town Meeting to get them on the warrant. The Planning Board members were supportive of the EVCSWG's efforts to date.

- Tom asked if the new Stretch Code that mandates residential EV charging stations and make ready provisions would have any impact on the previous guidance the EVCSWG received from Town Counsel on this subject. The guidance given thus far is that the town should avoid mandating residential EV charging stations or make ready provisions, as a zoning bylaw should not regulate what is already regulated by building code, and these are untested waters. Sierra will contact Town Counsel for confirmation. Sierra will also check on what amendments, if any, would be appropriate to the zoning bylaw given the new Stretch Code requirements.
- The Spring Town Meeting could potentially be in March of 2023. Chauncey noted that our group will need to have meetings in November and December to finalize our suggested wording for zoning bylaw changes for Appendices A, B, and D to be ready for a public hearing. Before our next meeting Tom will review Appendices A and B, Chauncey will review Appendix D for any changes that might be needed. Tom and Chauncey will send any changes to Sierra before our next meeting.

4. Set date, time, and scribe for next meeting

- The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 29th at 7pm via Zoom.

5. Approve minutes. August 25, 2022

- A motion to approve the August 25, 2022 minutes was made by Chauncey and seconded by Gerry. Minutes were approved 3-0-1 (Bob abstained).

6. Adjournment

- A motion to adjourn was made by Chauncey and seconded by Tom. Meeting adjourned at 7:37pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Gerald DiBello
10/22/2022