

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS WORKING GROUP

January 17, 2023

Via Webinar



WESTFORD ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) CHARGING STATIONS WORKING GROUP

MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

7:00 PM Meeting

Via Webinar

Please see instructions for participation below

1. Call to order
2. Old/New business
3. Discuss Follow-up from Planning Board Meeting
4. Approve minutes: December 22, 2022
5. Adjournment

Instructions for participation:

You can access the meeting at this link:

<https://westfordma.gov.zoom.us/j/84360756545>

If you do not have access to this method of participation, please submit written comments to Sierra Pelletier, Assistant Planner, spelletier@westfordma.gov by 12:00 pm on January 17, 2023.

If any member of the public wishing to attend this meeting seeks special accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact the Town Manager's Office at 978-692-5501 extension 1 or email to tmaa@westfordma.gov.

Old/New business

Discuss Follow-up from Planning Board Meeting

Dylan O’Connon
Chair, Westford Planning Board
Board Members

On September 23, 2022, the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) released final language for its Stretch Energy Code and Specialized Municipal Opt-in Code. To maintain the designation as a Green Community Westford will adopt this new building code.

These new codes accomplished the main goal of the Electric Vehicle Working Group (EVWG). As of 2023, the Stretch Energy Code provides EV and related definitions and requires a certain number of parking spaces be EV ready for any new residential and commercial projects.

During this past summer the EVWG followed the finalization of this new code. We submitted comments directly to the Department of Energy Resources through their public hearing and via an email.

We pointed out:

1. Better clarifications could be made for the code’s definitions, and
2. Provisions should be added to allow some flexibility to the required number of affected parking spaces.

We forged ahead to address the differences between the Westford zoning bylaws and the new codes. However, town counsel discouraged us from proposing any zoning changes that went beyond the requirements of the new code. Town counsel felt such deviations from the Stretch Code could be unfavorably challenged by the Attorney General.

As such, the EVWG decided not to move forward with any proposed zoning bylaw amendments.

The EVWG would like to go inactive at this time.

As the new code is implemented some of our concerns, e.g., definitions; establishing a zoning “use”, may highlight the need for zoning involvement.

The EVWG would like to provide input in these instances.

I’d like to thank the EVWG, Jerimy Arnold, Gerry DiBello, Sierra Pelletier, Bob Shaffer, and Tom Teller for their tireless efforts these past twelve months. They have spent many hours researching EV charging stations, the applicable zoning, and implementation.

We have learned quite a bit.

We also wish to thank the Planning Board for putting together this group and drafting our charge.

All of our research is available on the website <https://www.westfordma.gov/1445/Electric-Vehicle-EV-Charging-Stations-Wo> and would encourage your perusal of the documents. There are various approaches taken by many other municipalities.

Thank you again.

Chauncey Chu

Chair, Westford EV Charging Stations Working Group

From: [Chauncey Chu](#)
To: [Sierra Pelletier](#)
Subject: EVCS Action Items from Planning Board Meeting Jan 09, 2023
Date: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 3:14:46 PM

Hi Sierra

For distribution to the WG for our January 17th meeting:

All

From my update to the Planning Board on Jan 09, 2023 -

Actions Items to discuss:

1. Bob Shaffer suggested to the Board and Joe Giniewicz that a one-page flyer be drawn up to summarize the work accomplished by the EVCSWG. We should help out.
2. The flyer to be used to generate interest and to educate the public of the work done by the EVCSWG.
3. To show how this work relates to the new stretch code.
4. Distribute this at the March Annual Town Meeting.
5. Use this to generate interest and to point to the WG's website for further info.
6. Promote the WG's website.
7. The Planning Board voted to deactivate the Working Group for one year from this Jan 09, 2023 meeting unless a need arises sooner.

Thanks, and until then.

Chauncey

Minutes



WESTFORD ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) CHARGING STATIONS WORKING GROUP Meeting of December 22, 2022

A meeting of the Westford Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Station Working Group (WEVCSWG) was held at 7:00 PM on December 22, 2022, via Zoom.

The following WG members were present: Chauncey Chu, Tom Teller, and Jerimy Arnold.
Town Staff present: Sierra Pelletier, Assistant Planner

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 PM by Chair, Chauncey Chu.

2. Old/New Business

No old/new business was discussed.

3. Discuss memo and Presentation to Planning Board

- a. Board members had no comments on the memo and were good with the contents. Board voted unanimously to accept the memo.
- b. Chauncey will present memo to the Planning Board at their January 09, 2023 meeting.
- c. Board was asked if any have seen any updates or have seen the published version of the Stretch Code. No one has as of this meeting date.
 - i. Effective Jan 01, 2023, the new stretch code will be in place for residential low-rise projects and July 1, 2023, for commercial ones.
- d. The Board agreed to the Commonwealth's Stretch Code. There is no need to suggest changes to the Westford zoning bylaws.

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

- a. Next meeting will be remotely on January 17, 2023 at 7 PM.

5. Approve minutes: November 17, 2022

- a. Discussion of a minor change to the minutes. The Group agreed to have Sierra draft language for this change for approval by the Chair prior to publishing the final minutes.

6. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Tom, second by Chauncey, and voted unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted
Chauncey Chu
December 24, 2022