



City of Medford
Medford Energy Committee
City Hall Room 205
Medford, MA 02155
781-393-2137



enviro@medford.org
www.medfordenergy.org

**Medford Energy & Environment Committee
March 6th, 2017, 6PM City
Hall Room 201**

Attendees: Members: Curtis Tuden, Bob Paine, Jonathan Hunt, Barry Ingber, Laretta James, John Rogers
Staff: Alicia Hunt

Guests: Yusef – Tufts students, Stefano Loretto Good Energy, Dana – new resident, Matt Drapeau – new resident, Bindi Doshi – resident, Kat Perlaman - Tufts student, Rachel – Tufts student, Hanah Hazelton – Tufts student, Mary Sedon – resident, missed name – new resident, Jay - Tufts student, Gerry Li? – Tufts student

Meeting called to order at 6:10pm.

1. Administration

- Approve minutes from February 7th, 2017 - approved
- Attendance and administrative updates (ie. new members) - 3 internships posted at Tufts, there has been interest and applications and one of our current interns wants to stay for the summer. We have a number of applicants and we need to hear from the Mayor's office the process, Alicia is reviewing resumes to provide feedback to the Mayor and members are welcome to speak to her about looking resumes at providing feedback to the Mayor. The resumes are not currently available via email.

2. Policy - Municipal aggregation presentation from Stefano Loretto of Good Energy

- a. Goal is to save money for residents. National Grid must pre-buy electricity on 2 particular dates each year – coincidentally, one of those dates is this Wednesday. With a municipal aggregation the consultant can choose when to buy electricity and for how long of a contract.
- b. Second goal is to increase the amount of renewable energy purchased on behalf of the residents through the form of Renewable Energy Certificates. RECs from other states can be very cheap because the market is flooded and they have very little economic impact on the building of the wind farms. In MA REC revenue is necessary to the financial models for building clean energy in MA.
- c. Melrose pioneered the purchase of additional local RECs as part of a municipal aggregation. They are doing 5% of the energy in RECs in Melrose – the overall impact was substantial to the clean energy market in MA but had minimal impact on resident electricity prices. Brookline is setting a goal of 25% RECs for their aggregation.
- d. DPU already states what the rates can be and controls electricity rate at a state level, this is bringing the control to a more local level. It is an “opt-out” program, you are automatically enrolled. You can leave the program at any time. New residents can join the program at any time. Residents have 30 days during which they can opt-out before it starts, but you can leave at any time later. If an

- individual asks to opt out, they are out with the next bill they get as long as they request more than 3 days before the next meter read – within 3 days then it goes to the next bill.
- e. There are currently 24 communities in the program and participation has been growing in those communities.
 - f. Question about savings? Good Energy's client's have been saving money in general. They look at the savings over the term of the contract. They have 23 communities on south coast and they are savings \$0.007 per kWh but they're going to save \$10M collectively across the communities this past year.
 - g. Selection process? MAPC selected Good Energy to be a consultant to area communities and MAPC communities can join the program – they have 16 right now that are moving forward with GE right now.
 - h. No expense to the city – the outreach costs are born by the consultant as part of the project. GE feels that public outreach is one of their strong expertise – they have an outreach and marketing department. The City's role is in doing approvals, not outreach.
 - i. If Council approves, then they put together an aggregation plan which needs to be available to the public for comment, it goes to DOER and then DPU for approval – that can take 6-12 months.
 - j. National Grid still provides delivery services, should be called with electricity problems and low income still get their 29% discount.
 - k. Each month National Grid sends GE a list of “newly eligible accounts” who receive the opt-out letter.
 - l. 5% renewable is an example – The City decides what the default program is – in Melrose it's 5% but residents can choose to go to 100% green or 0% green. Most people stay at default. This is where Brookline is choosing to make the default 25%.
 - m. Question about the Tufts paper from 2013 – before 2014 there was no clear value proposition – they would do the program when the rates where high and then people would go back to the utility for the low rates and it wasn't worth it. DPU said that the cities couldn't go in and out of aggregation programs every 6 months because it was a problem for the utilities. Sometimes communities are advised to not go to bid for electricity rates because the timing isn't right and they need to wait for the right price. Consultant is paid by the supplier so they get paid once there's a electricity contact.
 - n. Next steps: City Council would need to vote on moving forward with municipal aggregation to allow the city to contract with Good Energy. Before this the Energy & Environment Committee will organize a public meeting to educate residents and the Mayor will request a Committee of the Whole.

2. Building – Library grant program – we won't hear from them until June, and we likely won't get funding for 2-3 years. At that time we'll be involved with the project

- Public Safety Building – Alicia has hired a consultant to look at the flood resiliency of the police station location and make recommendations on what we need to

Event Planning

- HYEAF and Green Awards - Voted to move the event to 10/14/17 due to the conflict with Yom Kippur
- Would like to finalize the form by our next meeting – will update the date
- Typically we announce it around Earth Day, sometimes in conjunction with Earth Day events in Medford. This year there will be a bunch of Community Clean Ups on April 29th, maybe we want to announce it in conjunction with that?

Communication

- Discussion of Go Green Medford forum and coalition information sharing
Forum will be google group – GreenMedford@googlegroups.com Curtis committed to

starting this on Thursday or Friday.

3. New Mission statement decided last meeting:

To promote policies and actions that make Medford more sustainable by encouraging resource conservation, improving climate resiliency, and increasing the use of renewables to meet present and future needs of the Medford community.

5. New Business

- Report on recent community meetings and potential Go Green Initiative – Curtis shared the list of ideas that have been brought to him through his meeting with other people about potential energy & environmental initiatives. Curtis educated us on the fact that the Missituk people were here before this was the City of Medford and has been meeting with Missituk people and hearing their ideas.
- Another issue that was raised was the idea of Sanctuary Cities and that more and more refugees will be climate refugees. Curtis will be talking to the Human Rights Committee on Wednesday about the Go Green Medford Coalition and climate refugees.
- Laretta took the webinar workshop, Sustainability with Trees: Community Canopy Project with the Sustainability City Network. The program was presented and sponsored by Energy-Saving Trees an Arbor Day Foundation Program. The tree planting program can be sponsored by a city, business or organization and advertises free trees to private property owners to help our environment and goals of planting thousands of energy saving trees. The Arbor Day Foundation runs the program with the participant sponsor, tracts participants and delivers low cost trees. She spoke with the Arbor Day Foundation on how to start and run the program, current participation and costs. Their program started in 2011 and is currently running in 36 states. To help protect the trees and investment; the idea of a tree ordinance was discussed to protect trees on private property.
- Rainbarrels and Compost bins will be available for ordering from the city soon.

6. Adjourn

8:05 PM

For accommodations please call in advance: 781---393---2137 or TTY: 781---393---2516

MEEC Mission: To promote policies and actions that make Medford more sustainable by encouraging resource conservation, improving climate resiliency, and increasing the use of renewables to meet present and future needs of the Medford community.

Visitors at this meeting:

Tufts students:

Jacob Ruttenberg, Kat Grellman, Rachael Meyer, Hannah Heselton, Amy Vasquez, Jussi Silliman

Residents: Dana Hanf, Matt Drapeau, Bindi Doshi, Mary Saudade, Nicole Morell

Good Energy representative: Stefano Lovetto