



City of Medford
Office of Energy and Environment
City Hall Room 205
Medford, MA 02155
781-393-2137 enviro@medford.org
www.medfordma.org/departments/energy-and-environment/



Medford Energy & Environment Committee Minutes
April 6th, 2017, 6PM
City Hall Room 201

Attendees: Laretta James, Matt Drapeau, Curtis Tuden, Kathleen McKenna, Bindi Doshi, Bob Paine, Lauren Laskey, Jonathan Hunt, Barry Ingber, Luke McKneally

Guest: Dana Hanf, Zach Maffeo (intern)

Absent: Cathy Young, John Rogers, Sergi Valme

Meeting called to order 6:10PM

1. Administration

- Approved minutes from March 6th, 2017
 - FYI, minutes are filed with the City Clerk's Office and mailed by them to City Councilors, also, posted periodically on the Go Green Medford website. There is a push to get our agenda out earlier because it will also go on the city's website in addition to the Clerk's Office.
- Attendance and administrative updates (Welcome new members!)
 - Jonathan Hunt is resigning from the committee but will still be around
 - Introduced Zachary Maffeo, Medford High student doing a probationary internship with Alicia

2. Community Event Updates

- Recap of National Grid Information Night and Community Aggregation Info Night
 - Provides electricity & natural gas to Medford businesses & residents. They have been on top of level 1 & level 2 natural gas leaks, there are none currently in Medford, but there are a lot of level 3 leaks. National Grid is now working on repairing level 3 leaks. They said that you cannot buy equipment to test your own leaks.
 - They were pushing a new natural gas pipeline coming in to MA and they were letting people know that they're requesting a rate increase from the DPU. Would not endorse a natural gas leak bill that Rep Christine Barber has introduced into the legislature.
 - National Grid replaces leak-prone pipe, rather than targeting specific level-3 leaks. Medford is one of the "leakiest" communities in MA and National Grid replaced a lot of pipes last year and plan to do 5.5 miles this year. FYI, National Grid will patch a road the year they open it, and per Medford DPW they only re-pave it the next year. They have a lot of roads to re-pave this coming year.

3. Energy and Environment Priorities:



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Policy

- Municipal Energy Aggregation - next steps
 - About 16 people attended event, presenters thought it was a good attendance. Curtis has an audio recording of the evening
 - There will be a City Council, Committee of the Whole meeting on 4/11; Councilor Falco said that he is in favor of Community Aggregation; Curtis sent the City Councilors email about the topic with information and invited questions.
 - When it's on the City Council agenda to vote on it will be important for residents to show up and show their support. In the meantime, it's useful for residents to let Councilors know that they want this.
 - Kathleen asked about the guarantee that the rate would be lower than the National Grid rate? It will be lower when the contract is first signed, or we won't sign. However, National Grid's rate changes 2x a year, and this contract would be for at least 12 months, so we can't guarantee it will always be better, but that would be the goal. Discussion about the renewable energy adder that would be provided to residents.

Building

- Potential projects? - Alicia provided update on solar – she's working with some companies to try to get solar on DPW and the Andrews school this year.
- Zach suggested idea of areas where there is asphalt directly into the river – can the committee work breaking that up and putting in something natural to clean the water? Alicia provided information on the project to design green infrastructure in Medford – some places have been identified as good locations on public land and now there is a grant to take some of the locations to full engineering design.

Event Planning

- HYEYF – Zach is starting to get our google doc database in order for 2017. The date is set at 10/14/17, noon-2pm; Dana is going back to school full time so didn't apply to be on the committee, but works in event planning and would like to help with the festival. Kathleen will coordinate electronics recycling at the festival again this year. Students will run the fabric/material/shoes recycling again. Alicia & Zach will check with the Mayor on paper shredding.
- Green Awards – application is the same as last year with updated dates.
- Medford Day is June 4th – Curtis will organize the table. Matt, Luke, Bob & Lauren will help. We have a lot of good material, let's ask John for the LED light hand crank generator for it.



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GO GREEN | Medford

Communication

- Discussion of Go Green Medford forum and coalition information sharing – working on an email list online gogreenmedford@googlegroups.com - Alicia will add the members of the committee to the list, if you want to set your settings to digest or unsubscribe, that's fine.
- Discussion of facebook page, twitter, Instagram. Other members of the committee are welcome to ask Alicia for access.
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5. New Business

- Report on recent community meetings and potential Go Green Initiatives
- Curtis will share ideas from other environmental groups of priorities, we can discuss at a future meeting.
- Theme of the Medford Library summer reading program is Build a Better World and the library is looking for suggestions of programs for adults – lectures, etc. Committee asked if they could put together a book list for the library. Alicia said yes 😊
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6. Adjourn

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.