



City of Medford
Medford Energy Committee
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Medford Energy Committee Agenda
May 5, 2014, 6PM City Hall
Room 201

Attending: Jeff Goldsmith, Laretta James, Kathleen McKenna, Bob Paine, Luke McKneally, Susan Altman, Sergi Valme, Jonathan Hunt, Cathy Young, John Rodgers, Alicia Hunt

1. Administration

- Approval of the Minutes of April 7, 2014
- Update of MEC online calendar to track meetings and events (Young)

Please make sure that subcommittee meetings are on the calendar and that you are updating the spreadsheet with info. Subcommittee chairs should say what they need, but members should also be clear about how much time each person actually has to work on assignments for the committee and subcommittee chairs should be respectful of that. Could we do some online conference calls to avoid so many meetings?

Skype will now do multi-person calls for free accounts. You have to download the application to your computer, but it would then be free. Speaking about spaces for meetings, you can ask the Hyatt and use their lobby for business meetings. Also, Bestsellers is available for meeting space.

Could all the subcommittees copy Alicia & Cathy on emails so they can stay on top of what's going on? Decision – all subcommittees should send all email to mec@medfordenergy.org and put "Education Subcommittee" or "Recycling Subcommittee" in the subject line

- MEC project advising - Status update of draft letter for MEC review (McKneally) – no update

2. Update on 2014 Active Subcommittees

- Review of spreadsheet listing goals and objectives for each subcommittee (Young)

Please update this on the web when you have changes

- 2014 Subcommittee Status Updates:
 - a) Education - (Tuden) - didn't meet in April

Kathleen speaking with USGBC and their Green Apple Day of Service, they might have money (up to \$500) to help with a project

- b) Recycling (Altman)

Trying to get meeting with Cambridge recycling coordinator, but in meantime has gotten a lot of information from the Cambridge website. They are trying to educate people about composting and get people to do more residential composting. There are companies that will pickup residential compost from homes.

Luke's wife attended the Brooks PTO where she saw the presentation from Bay State Textiles about textile recycling as a fundraiser at the schools. Alicia recently was approached by Planet Aid, who is a non-profit who raises money by reselling the textiles. They would also give money to the schools. [Update: Alicia sent info on Planet Aid to school PTOs that she had contact for.]

Alicia is trying to get compost bins for the city to resell and a discounted rain barrel program.

c) Green Awards - (Goldsmith)
(Discuss recommendations from Northeastern students report)

We reviewed the goal of the Green Awards at the last meeting and shared with everyone. They were formally announced at a Chamber of Commerce luncheon several weeks ago. Alicia sent email to Jodi with the information on how to apply. The program was well received. Will promote at Circle the Square. Will market it the same way as last year and other years. Hopeful to have a posterboard about the Green Awards. [Update: Jamie will plan to bring Green Awards posterboard to next Energy Committee meeting.]

John has drafted letters to send to solarize Medford participants and to past Green Awards recipients. Kathleen looked into whether there were LEED recipient buildings in Medford who could be potential nominees.

Is there a set number we give each year ? No, the Mayor prefers that if there are quality applications, they should be recognized without limit to the number of winners. That said, getting people to apply is not always easy.

A report by the Northeastern students was found and people should review and the subcommittee will discuss at the next meeting.

d) Harvest Your Energy - (A. Hunt)

Everyone should have received the email with the flyer with 3 on one page. Laretta is reviewing some documents that we will edit and then share with everyone to

e) Alternative Energy Park – (Young)

Cathy working on a concept paper that Alicia has reviewed and the Cathy will circulate to everyone. Everyone should review, she will share with the Mayor and then it can be used to solicit participation. Can meet and work on design. Should do a full concept design for everything so we don't box anything out, but he prefers to limit it to a few things to start with – solar house, green house, wind turbine, solar panels over parking lot.

Alicia will send the copy of the city's draft RFP for solar on the schools to Luke for review. He indicated that adding ground mount to a roof-mount solar project could add substantially to the cost.

Solar Decathlon 2015 information: <http://www.solardecathlon.gov/faqs.html>

<http://www.solardecathlon.gov/teams.html>

Alicia and the Mayor have talked with Erik Jacobs about having a greenhouse in that location in the future. Alicia will touch base with Erik next week and then see how the Energy Committee could work with him on this project. They have a place they are using for this year, but when we last talked, wanted a greenhouse in Medford for next spring.

Phase 1 – the wind turbine

Phase 2 – solar house, greenhouse, solar over parking lot “Enough for right now”

Phase 3 – open to recommendations

Strategy to go in phases – it's easier to get acceptance and buy-in from others. It might be easier sell it if we do not label it an “energy park” to begin with.

Please send comments on concept paper to Cathy by next week.

Objectives for this year – Develop concept document and outline for an alternative energy park, determine potential locations for consideration, determine potential sources of funding, conduct initial outreach to potential partners

3. Planning & Policy/Cross-Mission

- LEAP – Review list of goals and update for 2014 (Young, McKneally)

Luke reviewed. One of the “requirements” is to look at the city’s energy status and where we would be in the future.

- Green Communities Program Update - MEC efforts to support city meeting its required goals. (Young, McKneally, James, J. Hunt, Goldsmith)

No update. Alicia could provide energy savings report for next meeting. Alicia can do a 20 minute presentation at the next meeting with a projector looking live at our Mass Energy Insight site.

- Potential opportunities for Medford under Governor’s new Climate Change Plan (Young)

4. General Outreach & Communication

- Blog post updates (Altman)

Bob Paine has been sending, but we need more from members. Cathy will put a reminder in the calendar about half way through the month for everyone. <http://blog.medfordenergy.org/>

- MIT Community Energy Innovations Symposium – MEC Brief (Paine)

Jon & Bob went to an energy conference at MIT for the Dept of Urban Studies & Planning. Lots of interesting things, Bellevue Washington has a map of all renewables in the city. They are doing all sorts of things with informing users and letting users opt out of report cards on energy bills. Jon talked with Lexington about getting data from National Grid about community energy use.

Georgetown prize would need a lot of effort, a lot of big communities like Cambridge, Bellevue are participating. Need things like most innovative ways to engage residents with energy efficiency.

- Medford Arts Center - Environmental Art and Film Festival
June 19-22, 2014 (Paine)

Art exhibit with winning art, films shown all weekend – one about the Mystic River specifically, with the director in attendance, there is an existing poster circulating,

5. New Business

Ordinance question? Alicia will ask the Mayor what the section about alternates and filling positions actually means and how would that work? Does that mean he would appoint alternates to sit on this committee now, or does it mean that Cathy could just appoint people to the committee? This needs clarification.

Explanation about excused and unexcused absences.

6. Adjourn

8:00

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

MEC mission: To promote policies and actions that improve energy efficiency, encourage conservation, and increase the use of renewable energy to meet our present needs while considering future generations of the Medford community.