



City of Medford
Medford Energy Committee
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**Medford Energy & Environment Committee Minutes
September 11th, 2017, 6PM
City Hall Room 201**

Attendance:

Curtis Tuden, Laretta James, Barry Ingber, Luke McKneally, Matt Drapeau, Bob Paine
Guests: Rob Baker, Heidi Davis

1. Administration

Opened meeting at 6:05

Minutes – tabled to next month, October 2, 2017

2. Community Preservation Act Presentation with Heidi Davis

Heidi Davis from Community Preservation Committee, representative of Conservation Commission presented on the CPA in Medford

- In First year CPA generated \$1.2M of local revenue and there will be a 15% match from the state for the first year's revenue.
- Medford's committee was appointed in May, they are working on hiring a part-time administrator. CPA funds cannot be used for supplementing general municipal revenue, no maintenance or operation expenses.
- Members asked whether the City Council had a deadline on approving the money and if they didn't approve it, would it be lost? The money is not lost, it accumulates in a City account.
- It cannot be used to run a program, it can be used for a one time project.
- Ideas generated by the committee: preserving historic trees, tiny houses to provide affordable housing. The Committee thought that we might have additional ideas that we'll generate.
- Heidi suggested that the Energy Committee could put ideas into a memo that they send to the CPC and Alicia offered to compile them if they were sent to her.

3. Energy and Environment Priorities:

Policy:

Municipal Energy Aggregation – Alicia has been asked to arrange for someone from another local community to speak to the Medford City Council on Community Aggregation and their communications process. We anticipate that could happen in October and the Council might vote in November.

Gas Leak Ordinance – Councilor Lungo-Koehn has proposed an ordinance to push gas companies to address gas leaks in the community that is based on Boston’s ordinance. Mayor Burke has also asked the City Council to consider an ordinance on addressing gas leaks.

Pat Jehlen is having a forum on natural gas leaks in October. [Alicia found info on a forum with Sen Jehlen in September.]

Building:

Police Station building committee is meeting weekly with architect and Owners Project Manager (OPM). Alicia is part of the core team and consulting with Luke on environmental aspects.

Library: Building committee on hiatus while we wait for fundraising.

Streetlights: Project is moving along; audit is done, design is beginning. The City needs to make decisions on manufacturing company [i.e. GE, Cree, etc], color temperature, and brightness changes. Luke pushes for warmer light in residential and walkable areas. He feels that the whiter bluer lights are more appropriate in business districts. Question about what’s included – all streetlights on city-managed streets and we have audited all pole lights at city-owned facilities & open spaces. Right now Medford Square and the lights at the middle schools are in the scope.

Luke – at New Ecology they did a big LED upgrade, there are the cost savings for doing it all at once and for having controls

Boston emergency transportation depot has off-grid capability with solar and batteries.

Communication –

- Airplane noise/pollution – Laurretta – met with the 2 MassPort reps from Medford, she asked them about having a table at the HYEAF to spread the word about complaining about the airplane noise. They indicated that they find that it takes more than 5 minutes to show people how to do this and they don’t feel it’s the right venue for educating people on this. They could provide information packets that we could put out on a table at the festival. Laurretta will see about getting some of their packets and we can have them at City Hall as well as at the Festival.
- They liked the idea of having a flyer to put in the water bills. They would need to get the Mayor’s approval to do that.
- There’s a resident group that’s meeting about noise pollution this evening that’s working on this issue.
- It’s easier to get noise pollution measured than air pollution because of some of the technical pieces of getting the results selected.

Event Planning -

HYEF – 23 confirmed tables and 5 in the process

7 sponsors in addition to MassSave, 5 of them are attending.

12 companies donating raffle prizes, for about 20 prizes. See the attached information.

Laurretta got another exhibitor and a sponsor.

Luke will do a floor plan for this year. Do we have a primary preference, in door or out door?

Kathleen will want some help with recycling at the event, in addition to the students she wants an adult to spell her so she can take breaks and someone who can help her with it, Luke is interesting in helping Kathleen.

Green Awards

4 nominations & awards for people who have left the committee –

Cathy Young, Jon Hunt, Suman

Our committee makes recommendations to the Mayor and she decides which ones we give.

Accardi Foods – very large solar array on their building, they own the array. – Approved for recommendation

101 Main St Condo Ass – started recycling program, changed plastic plants to live plants.

Committee liked that they made changes to their behaviors – Approved for recommendation

Sarah Florenz and Susan Schmidt – Spearheading the Tufts Community Garden. – Approved for recommendation

Mayor Bloomberg – a Medford native, pledged to fund the US’s commitment to the UN Paris Climate Agreement and has been inspiring US Communities to move forward with our commitments to reducing green house gasses and stopping climate change. Barry objected to the nomination based on his racist policies in NYC, further details in his email to the Committee.

Committee members were not aware of his policies in NYC.

Tabled until October 2nd meeting.

We can still have more nominations come in over the next few weeks – Alicia will give the trophy company a heads up about the # of awards coming.

Luke is a Board Member of Passive House MA, a group working to inspire very high efficiency buildings in MA. On October 25th there will be a symposium. In PA very efficient buildings are getting significant tax breaks for being very low energy and this has inspired a building boom. It can be done at commercial scale as shown in Boston.

Bob Paine – From Bob’s email update:

This is just a note that Medford High School will have access to two portable air quality instruments during the period December 8, 2017 – January 22, 2018. The students will likely do sampling within the school building, but also probably outside at various spots in the city and probably inside other buildings. If you have suggestions for sampling strategies, please forward them to Charlie Saulnier at csaulnier@medford.k12.ma.us.

More information on the instrumentation can be found at <http://www.agtreks.com/index.html>.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05PM.