Medford Energy & Environment Committee (MEEC) Agenda
May 11, 2020 @ 6:30 PM
Via Zoom Virtual Meeting Connection (connection information below)

Office of Energy and Environment: Alicia Hunt
Committee Members: Luke McKneally (co-chair), Bob Paine (co-chair), Barry Ingber, Lauretta James, Kathleen McKenna, Nicole Morell, John Rogers, Dave Hampton, Martha Ondras, and Jessica Parks

Attendance: Alicia Hunt, Bob Paine (co-chair), Barry Ingber, Nicole Morell, John Rogers, Martha Ondras, and Jessica Parks
Staff: Alicia Hunt, Amanda Centrella
Guests: Norman Kaplan, Sue Brown

1. Administration
   6:30
   ● Greetings, roll call, and introductory remarks

2. Consideration of a Leaf Blower Ordinance (Nicole)
   ● Bob - electric powered leaf blowers are cheaper, quieter, lighter to use than gas powered
     ○ Electric powered leaf blowers include battery powered and corded electric. The latter has an extension cord limit of about 100 ft.
     ○ Introduces an exception to the moratorium: allows the use of gas powered 100 feet minimum distance and otherwise allows electric powered leaf blowers.
   ● John - Concern for small mom and pop operations; may not have the budget to purchase new blowers
     ○ Feels that the concession Bob's suggested will help mitigate this concern
   ● Norman - proposes a draft moratorium that states that:
     ○ The use of all leaf blowers on private property is prohibited. An exception would be battery powered or electric powered leaf blowers owned privately and used for no more than 15 minutes. This order makes enforcement simple.
     ○ 100 feet doesn't protect against noise and airborne particulate matter
   ● Martha - feels that the enforcement burden has to be addressed upfront
     ○ How do we make this enforceable?
   ● Alicia - points out that there is a difference between the MA Emergency Order (referred to in the drafted letter) or a more general 'emergency' status.
     ○ This could be in effect until the Governor’s "new normal", phase 4

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.
- Nicole - Motion to strike the language of the ‘MA Emergency Order’ and replace with the Governor’s language of ‘Phase 4’
  - Seconded by Bob
- Barry - Motion to accept the letter with the edit
  - Seconded
  - Roll call vote: Bob, Barry, Nicole, John, Martha, Jessica all affirmative
- The letter will be signed from the Medford Energy Committee and will list the names of the committee members
  - Alicia will send out an email asking if anyone objects to their name being included

3. Adjourn 7:03
The meeting recording will be available on the committee website within a few days: https://medfordenergy.org/gogreen/medford-energy-committee/

Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor’s March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the City of Medford Energy & Environment Committee is being conducted via remote participation. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Order. A reminder that persons who would like to listen or view this meeting while in progress may do so by accessing the link that was included on the meeting agenda posted on the City of Medford website. If, despite our best efforts, we are not able to provide for real-time access, we will post a record of this meeting on the city/town’s website as soon as we are able.

Medford Energy and Environment Committee Members

Luke McKneally (co-chair): registered architect with in-depth experience in energy-efficient, environmentally responsive design and the use of renewable energy in buildings. He is a green building project manager at New Ecology, Inc., a sustainable development non-profit organization.

Bob Paine (co-chair): Certified Consulting Meteorologist and Qualified Environmental Professional. Experience in meteorology and air pollution studies and consulting. Associate Vice President at AECOM, a company that focuses on areas of air quality consulting, engineering, and compliance, climate adaptation, and PFAS mitigation.

Barry Ingber: has spent most of the past four decades with non-profit organizations that serve low-income communities and work for a more sustainable and affordable energy future. Most recently, he managed energy programs for Tri-City Community Action Program. Previously, as Executive Director of MassEnergy, he founded the state’s first and largest green power program, and the nation’s first non-profit renewable energy coop.

Lauretta James: has experience in business management, sales, event organizing and art & design. Previously, she was president of the MA Elevator Safety Association, on the Board of Directors of Mobius artist group and owner of a service business. She has worked with the MA Dept. of Public Safety and other groups to promote their causes. She has Professional Florist Training from Cass Florist School and is a MA Real Estate Agent.

Kathleen McKenna: environmental engineer at Commercial Construction Consulting, Inc. (C3), which deals with LEED and sustainability consulting, energy audits, and implementation. She is secretary of the New England Chapter of The Association of Energy Engineers. Kathleen served in the role of community solar coach for the very successful 2013 Solarize Mass Program, when she coordinated the community outreach process, answered questions from residents and businesses, and was the main point of contact for community members.

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Nicole Morell: currently a member of the Medford City Council. She is a social media manager at MIT. Her work often touches on environmental and energy issues as she works to share news and tech developments and stay abreast of the newest advances in these areas. She has volunteered for many campaigns for progressive candidates and issues and joined the committee to help advance Medford’s green future and protect its many green spaces.

John Rogers: extensive background in energy conversion (motors, batteries, chargers, power grid, electric vehicles). With Solectria, he worked on the electrical system for the “Solectria Sunrise” EV and on their Grid Tied Solar Inverters. With Azure Dynamics, he worked on a Ford E250 Electric Van Prototype and on the onboard charging system for Ford’s Transit Connect Electric. He now works for Instrumentation Laboratory - Bedford, MA.

Dave Hampton: Climate Resilience Associate at The Cadmus Group, practicing at the intersection of climate adaptation, international development, and resiliency planning with 20+ years’ experience in architecture, planning, and construction. His experience includes post-disaster recovery, sustainable development, humanitarian design, living systems integration, high-performance energy-efficient buildings, and materials reuse. His work brings people, nature, and the built environment together to adapt to a changing climate.

Martha Ondras: Master’s candidate in environmental health at Tufts. She is also a research associate at the Health Effects Institute (HEI) in Boston, working on air quality research. HEI provides high quality, trusted science for cleaner air and better health. Prior to pursuing a second career in environmental health, she retired from the post of Director of Design at Harvard Business School.

Jessica Parks: has extensive experience to develop greenhouse gas reduction plans, implement energy efficiency projects, establish energy reporting protocols, and create opportunities for occupant engagement and education. She is currently a Senior Project Manager for Energy Efficiency projects at MIT, supporting campus GHG reduction efforts. She holds a B.A. from Bennington College in Ecology and Architecture, and a Master of Urban and Regional Planning with a focus on Sustainable Development from the University of Michigan.

Medford Energy and Environment Committee Municipal Staff

Alicia Hunt: Director of Energy & the Environment as well as the Environmental Agent for the City of Medford. Alicia started working with the city in 2010 as the Energy Efficiency Coordinator and has done a lot of energy efficiency work on the City’s buildings. She facilitated the City’s Green Communities designation and works to bring in energy and environment related grants and programs to the City of Medford. Alicia is a Medford resident who brings her green knowledge to other Medford organizations in her spare time.

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