Medford Energy & Environment Committee (MEEC) Agenda
September 13, 2021 @ 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, Jessica Parks, Chris Hogan, Gaston Fiore, Benji Hiller, and Paul Taslimi.

Attending: Bob Paine, Barry Ingber, Gaston Fiore, Lauretta James, Luke McKneally, Martha Ondras, Jessica Parks, Chris Hogan, Nicole Morelle, John Rogers, Kathleen Mckenna (6:50pm)
Guest: Rosemary Loer (Tufts Energy Group), Ellie Hunt (MHS CCSR), Sun BRown

1. Administration 6:30-6:50
   - Greetings, roll call, and introductions of guests
   - Review of minutes from August 13, 2021 meeting - Barry moved to approve, Bob seconded, approved
   - Administrative updates from Alicia Hunt
     - change of Chief of Staff (should be no impact, just FYI)
     - fixed most of the trouble with the email list, but still bouncing for Barry & Lauretta, from some senders, working with hosting company

2. Updates on HYEF planning/ Green Awards and other events for 2021 6:50-7:15
   Trouble getting a food vendor, because they don’t have the staff, labor is an issue
   If anyone knows anyone, please let us know.

3. Consideration of presentation by Matt Barlow – Barry 7:15-7:25
   - lead author for the UN Climate Report, Medford resident who would give a local talk about the report. Could do it at one of our meetings, or a separate event. Could have him speak for 15-45 minutes (is that right? I missed part of this discussion)
   - Barry will invite him to join us on 11/1 and will forward his article to the group

4. Update from Tufts Energy Group – Sam Glaser 7:25-7:30
   - First General Interest meeting is tonight, will discuss what events the can do in person; interested in

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energy related speakers, looking for someone to speak about state and federal law on climate and for someone to speak on climate severity. Alicia suggested the Resilient Mystic Collaborative might be an interesting presentation or talk for Tufts Students.

5. Tree and Urban Canopy Management subcommittee update on Tree Ordinance 7:30–7:50
Lauretta update - Paul T. was going to present about the tree canopy, but couldn’t make it. Lauretta, Paul & Gaston attended the Trees Medford meeting last month and helped work on the draft tree ordinance. Sue Brown added that Trees Medford is meeting weekly to discuss and work on the draft ordinance, they’re looking for input on things that were added at this meeting, like on affordable housing. Alicia provided some input on administrative functions. Looking at three areas (missed the first one), protected trees on private property and public trees. They expect to distribute it for comments and input in about a month. The Somerville ordinance was watered down a lot before it was passed.

6. Subcommittee reports and discussions for 2021 activities 7:50 - 8:15
- Promoting Solar Energy (Barry, Luke, and Bob)
  o Barry’s point about saving money or promoting renewable energy, what makes the most sense? Saving money, install solar, promote renewable energy Green Up in the aggregation
  o Would be great to have solar consulting on a one on one basis. Luke is very knowledgeable about solar installations, each decision is a very individual situation. Maybe a webinar?
- Tree and Urban Canopy Management (Lauretta, Luke, Martha, Paul, and Gaston)
- Building Energy Management (Dave, Lauretta, Kathleen, Luke, Jessica, Martha, Chris, and Gaston)
  o The Mayor would be interested in the Committee working on an outreach and education program on heat pumps for Medford residents. MassSave is in the process of developing an incentive program for 1-4 units to replace the current program from MassSave that would incentivize highly efficient systems. It may not be available until mid 2022. The program would be pushing towards a “Path to Zero” and there are some good incentives for heat pumps.
  o When considering how to push out information, residents more often listen to local information, in particular to their neighbors, before they will listen to the government or companies. Therefore, the most effective outreach is local grassroots outreach.
  o Luke shared some information about Energy Sprong, which is also known as “Energy Leap.” It is a German process where there is overlaying of panelized envelope systems with mechanical systems outside and a new roof. It works in certain circumstances, but it works well when feasible. Here are two related links:
    - https://www.greenbuildingadvisor.com/article/net-zero-energy-on-a-mass-scale
    - https://energiesprong.org/
  o An article was shared about building shell adaptation and energy conservation retrofit efforts in New York City and one pilot building in Boston:
  o The Governor will be speaking at a new passive house project. There will be a committee to explore energy efficiency and solutions for buildings. Boston and Cambridge have energy reporting ordinances for certain size buildings and are city-specific. This committee will be looking into how to require this reporting state-wide.
- Transportation Management (Barry, Bob, Martha, and Gaston)
  o Walk Medford is putting together a platform of what their group stands for and what they hope to accomplish in the next year. Predominantly pedestrian safety. Highlights include

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DCR’s Master Plan for Parkways that addresses roads in Medford, Medford’s Complete Streets and Safe Routes to Schools Improvements.

- MBTA is doing a network redesign. They are using data from smartphone carriers to understand desired destinations and end points. Their goal is to map these into stops and re-layout routes for the MBTA bus system in the greater Boston area. They are getting ready to share publicly several routes, one of which could go from Malden Center, to Medford Square, to Arling Center. Anyone interested can sign up for their email list: https://www.mbta.com/projects/bus-network-redesign

- Green Line extension to Medford delayed until the summer. The City is pushing for the Environmental Study for the Green Line Extension to Rt16.

- Energy Educational Forums (Lauretta, Kathleen, Bob, Jessica, Gaston, and Paul)

7. Update on State Implementation of the Climate Bill - Bob 8:15-8:20
   - Public meetings will be held in October to discuss the process and timeline for meeting emission limits for 2025 and 2030 and developing the clean energy and climate plan. The meetings will discuss the setting of baselines and goals, and development of a plan for achieving the goals.

8. New Business to consider for future meetings 8:20-8:30
   - Medford High students typically want to do environmentally minded projects. Dir. Hunt may send mail to the committee about student projects and ask for volunteers to talk with the students about the projects, rather than waiting for a monthly meeting to bring them forward. Then members would report back after the fact, rather than before the projects, to provide timely responses to the students.

   - Lauretta asks whether it is possible to share sustainable products with the group. The Committee recognizes that they cannot make recommendations. Martha proposes that a policy be developed about sharing of products versus neutral information as a group.

   - Chris suggests that in the future guests be invited to speak earlier in the meeting to respect their time.

9. Adjourn 8:30
Community Development is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Energy and Environment Commission Meeting

Time: September 13, 2021 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

https://zoom.us/j/96291215902

Meeting ID: 962 9121 5902

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Find your local number: https://zoom.us/u/aVXjXTo94

Anyone wishing to send comments or questions to the meeting can send email to enviro@medford-ma.gov

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

On June 16, 2021, Governor Baker signed into law “An Act Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency.” This Act includes an extension, until April 1, 2022, of the remote meeting provisions of the Governor’s March 12, 2020, Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law. In accordance with the 2020 Executive Order, this meeting of the City of Medford Energy & Environment Committee is being conducted totally via remote participation using Zoom, including committee members and the public. The use of Zoom complies with the law’s requirement to provide live “adequate, alternative means” of public access to the deliberations of the public body, instead of holding meetings in a public place that is open and physically accessible to the public. Persons who would like to listen to or view this meeting while in progress may do so by using 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’s website in the near future at the link provided in the meeting agenda.

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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 an Energy Engineer at ICF, implementing MassSave Passive House incentives for multifamily development in Massachusetts to encourage best practices and the highest performance possible with minimal project cost implications.

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. Bob has been a member of this committee and legacy municipal committees (e.g., wind turbine committee) since 2004.

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: is a real estate agent and Realtor®. She works within the Committee to design and promote energy, sustainability, and environmental programs and events to educate and benefit residents and businesses. Her background includes working in the elevator industry, event organizing, and art and design. She was previously President of the Massachusetts Elevator Safety Association.

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.

Nicole Morell: currently a member of the Medford City Council. She is the communications specialist in the MIT Office of Sustainability where she is tasked with educating and engaging the community in campus sustainability efforts focused on emissions, climate resiliency, materials management, and more. Nicole 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.

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**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:** with a Master’s degree in environmental health at Tufts, she is 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:** with a background in sustainable design and urban planning, she has experience in developing greenhouse gas reduction plans, driving energy efficiency projects, and establishing energy reporting protocols. She is currently a Senior Project Manager at MIT for projects under the campus-wide Greenhouse Gas (GHG) program. Jessica hopes to utilize her experience and expertise to help create opportunities for community engagement and education in support of a more sustainable and resilient Medford.

**Chris Hogan:** Construction Program Manager at Tufts University. Working in support of Tufts’ goal of Carbon Neutrality by the year 2050, Chris’ projects are tasked with the study and implementation of energy reducing strategies within buildings of varying usage types. (i.e. – research labs, wood frame housing, dining facilities, etc.). A 20-year Medford resident, Chris is excited to serve on the committee to help promote the shared goals of Tufts and the City of Medford in their pursuit of a cleaner energy future.

**Gaston Fiore:** Gaston believes that an environmental education campaign leveraging our youth, encouraging active forms of transportation (pedestrian and bicycle), and making green technologies reachable to low-income households are key to achieving world-class environmental sustainability for Medford. Gaston has a background in AI and machine learning and has experience in self-driving cars and demand modeling to medicine. He has BS and MS degrees in Aerospace Engineering from MIT, and an MS in Computer Science from Harvard.

**Benjamin (“Benjie”) Hiller:** (to be provided)

**Paul Taslimi:** (to be provided)

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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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