Medford Energy & Environment Committee (MEEC) Agenda
January 4, 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, and Jessica Parks

Attendance: Bob Paine, Luke McKneally, Lauretta James, John Rogers, Jessica Parks, Barry Ingber, Martha Ondras, Kathleen McKenna, Nicole Morell, Dave Hampton
Staff: Alicia Hunt, Naina Chawla, Ali Hiple
Guests: Mayor Breanna Lungo-Koehn

1. Administration 6:30-6:50

- Staff introduced themselves to Mayor, Bob gave overview presentation on MEEC’s work
- Review of minutes from December 7, 2020 meeting
  - Minutes approved
- Administrative updates from Alicia Hunt
  - Naina replacing Ali taking minutes going forward
  - Currently City Hall is at 25% capacity for staffing
  - Economic Development Director Viktor Schrader starting week of 1/11
  - Alicia commented that City recently purchased a Constant Contact account, MEEC could use Energy & Environment account to communicate as well

2. Meeting with the Mayor and MEEC presentation 6:50-7:45

- Bob gave overview presentation
  - Highlighted current efforts: coordination with Tufts Energy Group on educational efforts, Harvest Your Energy Festival, adding new committee members
- Alicia noted that a particular role the committee can and does play is in education and outreach to the community
- Mayor raised point about collaboration with CCSR re: Adopt-a-Street program and coordination with Adopt-a-Drain program
  - Sees education and communication as a big and important role for the Committee and important for environmental efforts in the city
- Gave subcommittee updates/backgrounds
  - Solar: efforts have been focused on education about energy grid and solar/renewable energy

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

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Committee has also focused on the economic impacts of solar and barriers to access to solar.

- Tree and urban canopy: mentioned Tree Report, presentation at Educational Webinar, overall research in support of trees and efforts to share this out
- Educational events group: mentioned November forum, coordination with Tufts Energy Group, possibility of coordination with schools in the future, etc.
- Building Energy Management: focused on the role that energy efficient buildings and building improvements can play, education is key here as well, the group can also serve in an advisory/consultant role for new buildings as in the cases of the policy station and library
- Transportation: state goals for electric vehicles, consider push for more charging stations, grants/funding support for these efforts, etc.; also consider access to GLX stations; walkability
  - Also discussed future coordination with CCSR students, to advance MEEC efforts and also because MEEC is a good resource for students
  - Another possible future effort is around upgrades to fire stations
    - Alicia will be talking to Mayor about funding opportunities here, although there isn’t currently a facility manager there could be some advisory role to advise on greening these improvements

3. Updates for the Tufts Energy Conference in 2021 7:45–8:00

- No representative from TEG for this meeting, further discussion at Feb. meeting
- Bob sent email with information on Conference content from website
- Any other info from Sam will be shared with the committee as received

4. Further discussions for 2021 planning/new business 8:00-8:30

- Discussion of new members: looking for three
- It is the Mayor’s hiring decision for new members but input from MEEC is welcome
- Nicole raised idea of initiative to make takeout utensils by request only
  - i.e. Put messaging in takeout containers to educate people and provide notice before specific date
  - Would want a small grant to support this - CCSR has access to small grant funds, also Medford Community Coalition as a possible option for support
  - Nicole will check with CCSR and Community Coalition re: funding and follow up on this idea
  - Alicia also noted that any restaurant that has funding from City for Covid response could perhaps use that money for this effort also
- Other plastic issues:
  - Plastic bag ban is still in effect, but the Health Department has the power to waive this on a case-by-case basis. Wegmans has this waiver.
- Other items:
  - Discussion of 2021 Harvest Your Energy Festival scheduling, approx. 10/16/2021
  - Meetings for this year: first Monday of every month at 6:30 PM with holiday exceptions:
    - July 5th observance of 4th of July, meeting date TBD
    - August TBD
    - Labor Day replacement: Sept 13
  - Green Awards will be discussed at Feb 1 meeting
  - Climate Action and Adaptation Plan update: working to have a final version in the spring, currently working on community outreach piece, planning to have public meeting in the spring

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Community Development is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Energy and Environment Commission Meeting

Time: Jan 4, 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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Dial by your location

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Meeting ID: 962 9121 5902

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/

Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, General Laws Chapter 30A, Section 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. Persons who would like to listen to 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’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.

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.

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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: 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, Jessica 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.

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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