Medford Energy & Environment Committee (MEEC) Minutes
January 3, 2022 @ 6:30 PM
Via Zoom Virtual Meeting Connection
Video recording available at
https://medford.vod.castus.tv/vod/?video=ff47321-0e9a-4855-a748-d1ce514be5c3.

Office of Energy and Environment: Alicia Hunt
Committee Members: Luke McKneally, Bob Paine (chair), Gaston Fiore (future co-chair), Paul Taslimi (future co-chair), Barry Ingber, Lauretta James, Kathleen McKenna, Nicole Morell, John Rogers, Dave Hampton, Martha Ondras, Jessica Parks, Chris Hogan, and Benji Hiller.

Attendees: Luke McKneally, Bob Paine (chair), Gaston Fiore (future co-chair), Barry Ingber, Lauretta James, John Rogers, Dave Hampton, Martha Ondras, Jessica Parks, Chris Hogan, and Benji Hiller, Paul Taslimi (future co-chair)
Visitors: Susan Brown and Marie Izzo

1. Administration 6:30-7:00
   ● Greetings, roll call, and introductions of guests
   ● Review of minutes from December 6, 2021 meeting, accepted (yes 10, abstain 1) 6:40pm
   ● Administrative updates from Alicia Hunt
   ● Dates for remaining 2022 meetings: Feb 7, March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6, Summer TBD, Sept 12, October 3, Nov 7, Dec 5.
   ● Date for 2022 Harvest Your Energy Festival - 10/15/2022 - Alicia checking with the Mayor’s Office
   ● Other committee events for 2022 - Alicia is reaching out to the Mayor’s Office; Committee discussed potentially organizing something for Earth Day? Perhaps around public transport?
   ● Membership status for 2022 reminder (active members should reaffirm their intent to serve during 2022) - no one has expressed interest in leaving the committee, so assume all members will continue with the committee.
   ● Forthcoming invited presentations for February and March meetings.
   - Luke coordinating presentation from MassSave for February meeting
   - Bob coordinating presentation from NEEECO/HeatSmart on heat pumps for March meetings.

2. Review of status of Massachusetts Climate Law (Bob Paine) 7:00-7:05

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

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3. Recap of Westford Climate Action webinar of October 17, 2021 regarding heat pumps (Bob Paine)
Bob shared information he learned from the Westford webinar he attended. Using heat pumps releases significantly fewer GHG than other heating forms, including natural gas. It takes time to plan to install heat pumps, so residents shouldn’t wait until their heating system fails. Heat pumps move heat, including taking heat out of the outside air (and make it even colder) and put it into the house. The refrigeration cycle is used to do this. Current systems will work down to -17°F. The same equipment can then be used for cooling as well. Bob emphasized that there will be more information in Luke’s presentation next month. Looking forward to increased incentives from MassSave.

Question about incentives for landlords? 7:05-7:40

4. Request discussion items from committee members:
Medford Shovels app (Gaston) - Gaston has been meeting with the computer programming teacher at the HS on a program that is educational for students to program and helpful. They’ve been working on the “Medford Shovels” app which is directly related to several of the Climate Action Plan actions. This is for seniors to ask for help shoveling snow.
He’d like to have the students present about how to use the app for maybe 10 minutes and the committee can give them feedback. Syrah has included information about this app in a mailing that went out to the seniors. Only CORI checked shovelers will have access to use the app to sign up to shovel (can be volunteer or paid).

Rodent control and rodenticides (Martha and Alicia) - Martha is interested in finding out what the city is doing about rodenticides in general. There is a bill in the State house to regulate and minimize the use of rodenticides. The goal is to only have people use rodenticides after they’ve done “Integrated Pest Management” to minimize use of rodenticides.

If someone wants to set up a tour of the Waste Management recycling center, they should let Alicia know and she’ll provide contact information.

Medford Climate Action Plan (what specific goals can be established for 2030?) – Paul 7:40-8:05

5. Review of committee activities for 2022: subcommittees and other activities (open discussion) 8:05-8:30

6. Adjourn 8:30

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