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

Attendance: Luke McKneally (co-chair), Bob Paine (co-chair), Barry Ingber, Kathleen McKenna, Dave Hampton, Jessica Parks, Gaston Fiore, John Rogers, Benji Hiller, and Paul Taslimi.

Staff: Alicia Hunt, Yvette Niwa, Sue Brown, Sam Glaser

1. Administration 6:30-6:50
   - Greetings, roll call, and introductions of guests
   - Review of minutes from September 13, 2021 meeting
     - Minutes approved (6-3-0)
   - Administrative updates from Alicia Hunt - mailing list updates, new interns
     - PDS hired two new interns - Allison McIntyre and Amber Davis. Allison will be working on the Comprehensive Plan and housing and Amber will be working on the Climate Plan and outreach.
     - Alicia is looking for an intern to regularly staff the Energy and Environment Committee meetings.
     - PDS is hiring for a staff planner and an administrative assistant.
     - Three email accounts on the mailing list consistently bounce. Alicia has been trying to address this with the website host.
     - There was some discussion on the application of Open Meeting Law to email correspondence and sharing of information.
       - May a public body member communicate with other public body members over email?

       Yes, but only in limited circumstances. A member of a public body may email other public body members on matters within jurisdiction of a public body so long as the email does not reach a quorum of the public body. Communications between and among a quorum of a public body on matters within the jurisdiction of the public body must occur during a noticed meeting. G.L. c. 30A, §§ 18, 20. A public body member may lawfully email a quorum of the public body only to discuss scheduling a meeting, distribute a meeting agenda, or to distribute reports or documents to be discussed at a meeting, provided that no opinion of a member of the public body is

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expressed. See G.L. c. 30A, § 18.

https://www.mass.gov/info-details/frequently-asked-questions-about-the-open-meeting-law#frequently-asked-questions-about-public-bodies

2. Updates on HYEF planning/ Green Awards and other events for 2021 6:50–7:30
   ● PDS is struggling to find food vendors due to the labor shortage. The shredding truck is unable to attend since they cannot find a driver. PDS continues to look for food vendors for the festival.
   ● Comprehensive Plan, Climate Plan, Carr Park, and Energy Aggregation consultants will table at the event. The Medford Bike Commission will be reaching out to sign up and coordinate day-of events. The Bike Commission is holding a bike ride.
   ● Committee members indicated if they were attending the HYEF and volunteered for various tasks/roles. Volunteers are needed for traffic directing. Orange traffic cones to be supplied as well. Members/volunteers should park in front of the McGlynn School or Hormel Stadium.
   ● There is a preference to hold the event outside due to COVID, weather permitting. If the event is moved indoors, it will be held at the McGlynn School.
   ● Alicia and the Mayor will prepare remarks for the speaking portion of the event.
   ● https://medfordenergy.org/gogreen/harvest-your-energy-festival/
   ● https://www.facebook.com/events/263962838550362

3. Updates on environmental issues under consideration by the City Council or the Mayor– Alicia and Nicole 7:30-7:45
   ● Conversion to heat pumps is encouraged through the City’s “race to net zero” commitment. The Mayor was wondering if the Committee would be willing to do outreach on this.
   ● There was some discussion around energy efficient heating, cooling, and ventilation design.

4. Planning for presentation by Matt Barlow at the November 2 meeting – Barry 7:45-7:55
   ● Matt will give a 30 minute presentation followed by a 20 minute Q&A portion.
   ● Outreach will occur via the city’s weekly email announcement, an email blast to Go Green, office newsletter, and signage/notice posted at HYEF. Barry will send Alicia a blurb to use with the outreach materials.

5. Planning for webinar evening on Wednesday, November 10th with Tufts [note, this date has changed since the meeting]
   Energy Group – Bob Paine, Paul Taslimi, and Sam Glaser 7:55-8:00
   ● State Senators Mike Barrett (Lexington) and Sen Pat Jehlen (Medford) will present on state climate law. Scott Haase, Director of Strategic Partnerships at NREL, may be added as a presenter, pending his availability.
   ● Tufts Energy group is working on finding a speaker(s).
   ● Alicia is working on setting up the webinar and training a student to help run the event.
   ● Tufts Energy is beginning planning for the Energy Conference. The event will hopefully be held in person.

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6. Plan to work with the Medford Vocational Technical High School on green energy career skills - Gaston 8:00-8:20
   - Gaston is building a relationship with the Medford Vocational Technical High School around working on energy needs/issues towards implementing the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan and achieving net zero emissions by 2050. There is a need to increase the quantity/quality of vocational education to prepare students for innovation and new technologies.
   - He would like to involve the Vocational School in all aspects of the climate work.
   - Specific to the electrification process, Gaston would like to develop a co-op/internship opportunity for students with EV companies contracted with the city. Students can maintain or help maintain charging stations.
   - EV charging station installation and maintenance plan
     - Medford works with an EV installer, Voltrek, through the state approved list of companies. The Office of Planning, Development, & Sustainability has applied for two more charging stations with Voltrek.
     - Voltrek has allowed students at the vocational school to participate in the installation in the past.
     - The city has a maintenance contract with Voltrek. Gaston is working with the electric shop instructors to involve students in maintenance of the charging stations.

7. Subcommittee reports and discussions for 2021 activities 8:20-8:30
   - Promoting Solar Energy (Barry, Luke, Gaston, and Bob)
     - There will be a solar discussion at the Passive House MA symposium in November. The discussion will cover solar and Passive House strategies for getting to net zero.
   - Tree and Urban Canopy Management (Lauretta, Luke, Martha, and Paul)
     - Trees Medford has a grant available ($20k) to plant 200 trees.
     - Trees Medford has become a formal 501(c)3.
     - To achieve tree equity (80% rate per city block), the city would need to plant 10,000 trees. It costs the City of Medford $650 to plant a tree, though the cost is typically between $100-300 per tree. Is there a way to lower this cost? Can the city delegate tasks to students?
     - PDS money was allocated for stump removal and tree planting. An RFP was released and pricing came in at $188,000 for 50 trees. Conditions that contribute to costs include removing stumps, dealing with concrete/sidewalk, and replacing curbs.
   - Transportation Management (Barry, Bob, Martha, and Gaston)
     - The computer science program at the high school is developing an app for the snow shovelers program for seniors.
     - South Street is getting a contraflow bike lane.
     - There has been discussion around how to improve the Boston Avenue and College Avenue intersection for bike infrastructure.

8. New Business to consider for future meetings 8:30
   - Trees - discuss flexi paving
   - HYEF festival recap
   - Planning for the November 10th webinar

9. Adjourn 8:30
   - Adjourned at 8:30

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Community Development is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

**Topic:** Energy and Environment Commission Meeting

**Time:** October 4, 2021 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

**Join Zoom Meeting**

[https://zoom.us/j/96291215902](https://zoom.us/j/96291215902)

Meeting ID: 962 9121 5902

One tap mobile

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Dial by your location

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Find your local number: [https://zoom.us/u/aVXjXTo94](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/](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: is a now retired lawyer. He has a Masters degree in biology/ecology. He spent most of his career engaged in toxic tort litigation, specializing in representing children harmed by lead poisoning. Back in the 1970s and 1980s, he was part of the Clamshell Alliance which fought to prevent the construction of the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant and which brought the dangers of nuclear power to the attention of the world.

Paul Taslimi: Senior scientist at Merck Research Laboratories Boston. Paul has been an active scientist for 40 years. Paul has a BSc and MSc degrees in Chemistry and Biochemistry respectively from Canada. Paul has a deep interest in mitigating the climate crisis through science education and raising awareness at the local level and hopes that his years of experience in science can be beneficial to the Medford community in addressing the climate crisis.

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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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