Medford Energy & Environment Committee (MEEC) Agenda
December 5, 2022 @ 6:30 PM
Via Zoom Virtual Meeting Connection (connection information below)

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, Martha Ondras, Jessica Parks, and Benji Hiller.

Committee Attendance: Bob Paine, Benji Hiller, Martha Ondras, John Rogers, Barry Ingber, Gaston Fiore, Kathleen McKenna, Jessica Parks, Luke McKneally

Staff: Alicia Hunt, Lilly Worth

Guests:

1. Administration 6:30-7:05
   ● Greetings, roll call, and introductions of guests
   ● Review of minutes from November 7, 2022 meeting
     ● Additional clarifications and details have been added to the minutes to accurately reflect Gaston's conflict-of-interest inquiry to the State Ethics Committee about the tree ordinance.
     ● Revised minutes have been accepted
   ● Administrative updates from Alicia Hunt
     ● 2 relevant jobs have been posted: a senior planner and a housing planner, both within the office of Planning. Both jobs are funded by recurring funding.
     ● Medford has a new facilities director, who started today. The facilities director has experience with capital projects so that may be something that could be re-added to the scope of the role. This will hopefully help with energy efficiency in municipal buildings.
     ● City has started its budgeting process
   ● Review of Committee co-chairs for 2023, commitment to continued membership for 2023, and consideration of adding new members in 2023
     ○ Gaston and Paul will assume co-chair responsibilities. Nicole will step down
     ○ There is no fixed number for how many people should be members of the committee.
       There is an interest form on the City’s Website to apply; we can also advertise for new members
     ○ Sometimes people show up to the meetings before being members, and express interest and enthusiasm - this is one way to identify good candidates

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

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Sometimes the planning office staff review candidates and select based on what skills and expertise are needed.

- We should look beyond expertise to include diversity, interest/enthusiasm. Diversity is also a form of expertise that we are missing.
- Alicia will include the E&E committee in the general call for new committee members.

- Confirmation of January 9 as date for first committee meeting in 2023.
  - Alicia can attend for the first 30 min but someone else from the Planning office will need to help staff.

- Should 2023 meetings be via Zoom, or in person?
  - Other committees are mostly meeting remotely; some may meet in person but very few.
  - It is prudent to continue remotely at least through January.

2. Review of heat pump program options for Medford: discussion will include BlocPower approach as well as “Electrify Arlington” approach with HeatSmart Alliance and local coaches.

- The Arlington approach requires volunteer coaches which may be hard to arrange, but offers perhaps the best way to help people understand the systems available.
  - Barry has a connection in Arlington who may be able to provide us with info - he will look into it.
  - Similar to the Solarize program, wherein the city had to find volunteers for the program, including residents who identified good houses for solar, and found a contractor via RFP. The contractor then provided the expertise to analyze each specific house to make recommendations. Ideally there should be multiple trustworthy companies to help handle demand.

- Existing information about heat pumps is confusing and sometimes contradictory.
- Air sealing and insulation are important factors to consider alongside heat pumps.
- What would a similar program look like in Medford?
  - There is a role for the committee here - recruit volunteers to help homeowners (particularly seniors) connect with contractors and interpret their options.
  - Many homes in Medford have already been insulated and air sealed, thus would be good heat pump candidates.
  - There is a risk of untrustworthy operations as well - we need to be able to separate the good companies from the bad.
  - Is there a way we could standardize things so residents have a checklist and/or formula to follow when learning and evaluating heat pump plans? Some existing steps: Manual J, Manual S, Manual D.
  - The better the air sealing, the smaller the heat pump system required. Backup systems can provide a small amount of effort in peak demand periods.
  - The City of Medford can’t recommend contractors without going through an official procurement process.

3. MAPC draft guidelines on “Medford Residential and Mixed-use Sustainable Building Design Guidelines”

- City of Medford is actively participating in this process with MAPC.

4. Initial discussion of Paul Taslimi questions for committee consideration *(tabled until Paul can attend)*

- a. What is the operational bandwidth of our committee?
- b. What issues are approachable within the parameters of this committee?

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c. Do we have any advocacy bandwidth outside of current concerns that are defined in the city of Medford resiliency plan? The gist of this question is navigating city policy and concerns of individual members of the committee. I'm [Paul is] clearly referring to myself in this context.

d. How does MEEC contribute to energy and environment concerns of citizens? Are we a clearing house for industry-defined notions of resiliency and the mechanics of negotiating that or can we advocate for more?

5. Review of last 3 years of our committee’s work; handover of chair to Paul and Gaston
   8:15-8:30
   - Bob recaps the highlights and challenges of the last 3 years, including events, partnerships, and goals
   - Bob will continue to be a member of the committee after stepping down as chair

6. Adjourn; happy holidays and looking forward to 2023!

Community Development is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Energy and Environment Commission Meeting

Time: December 5, 2022 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 July 16, 2022, Governor Baker signed into law An Act Relative to Extending Certain State of Emergency Accommodations. This Act allows public bodies to continue holding meetings remotely through March 31, 2023 without a quorum of the public body physically present at a meeting location, and to provide "adequate, accommodations, please call in advance: 781-393-2137 or TTY: 781-393-2516

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alternative" access to remote meetings.

In accordance with this Act, 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. 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. We will also 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**: 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 (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.

**Martha Ondras**: with a Master’s degree in environmental health at Tufts, she is a research assistant. For accommodations, please call in advance: 781-393-2137 or TTY: 781-393-2516

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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.

**Gaston Fiore (future co-chair)**: 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 (future co-chair)**: 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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Alicia Hunt: Director of Planning, Development and Sustainability. Alicia started working with the city in 2010 as the Energy Efficiency Coordinator and has managed extensive energy efficiency and renewable energy projects for 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.

Medford Energy and Environment Committee Municipal Staff

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