Medford Energy & Environment Committee (MEEC) Agenda
February 1, 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, Barry Ingber, Jessica Parks, Dave Hampton, Kathleen Mckenna, John Rogers
Staff: Alicia Hunt, Naina Chawla
Guests: Brett Hausler, Sue Brown, Zack Gordon, Aggie Tuden, Kevin Bailey, Sam Glaser

1. Administration 6:30-6:50
   ● Greetings, roll call, and introductory remarks
     o Welcome members of the public joining
     o Kevin Bailey (Recreation Director) - Want to discuss the City Nature Challenge in May
     o Brett Hausler - New resident looking to get involved in the City of Medford
     o Sue Brown -
     o Zack Gordon - Has lived in Medford for ~3 years, 2nd MEEC meeting to hear the summary of the State Climate Bill
     o Aggie (Tree Warden)
   ● Review of minutes from January 4, 2021 meeting
     o Minutes approved
   ● Administrative updates from Alicia Hunt, including committee memberships and input from the mayor about committee activities
     o As mentioned in the last MEEC meeting, Naina will be replacing Ali to take meeting minutes
     o Department has hired a new Economic Development Director
     o Have discussed adding new members to the committee with the Mayor
     o Moving forward with the Comprehensive Plan. Will be making a recommendation to the Mayor and will likely be signing a contract by the end of this week to start the Comprehensive Plan (which is a master plan for the city that examines the big picture/long-term goals for the city on issues such as zoning, land use, transport, environment etc.)
     o Have applied for a lot of grants recently to fund ongoing/new projects
     o Economic Development Assistance grant to work on economic recovery issues

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2. Information about educational / outreach event in late April – Alicia 6:50–7:00
   - Kevin will present regarding the City Nature Challenge: The City Nature Challenge began several years ago in L.A. through the natural history museum to keep a track the species. They created an app, where people can go in and take pictures, which is identified by a team of experts. Medford has been doing this for a few years. Last year was cancelled due to Covid-19, replaced with a hike. It is a 3-day program which challenges cities to collect as much information as possible to identify as many species as they can.
   - The Recreation department is planning to do 2 hikes and looking to promote all the different nature hikes residents can do. CCSR may also run a hike, as well as Friends of the Fells and Students of the Fells
   - The Rec Dept will support any groups that want to organize hikes that weekend.
     - City Nature Challenge will be putting out Covid-19 rules/guidelines
     - Registration will be required
   - Directions will be provided on how to download the app

3. Medford Tree Report and Possible Legislation Activity - Nicole Morrell 7:00–7:10
   - This topic will be moved to March 1st when Nicole is in attendance
   - Aggie (Tree Warden) commented that it is a very busy season this year and the City has planted trees at smaller public events this year
     - The City has successfully acquired grants with CPC funds to protect and promote Medford's trees.
     - Have also submitted application for Tree City USA (awarded for the 23rd year in a row)
     - Arbor day scheduled to take place this Spring

   - Bob presented on the Massachusetts Climate Bill
   - Slides included that capture the benchmarks, roadmap, goals, provisions, and priorities of the MA Climate Bill
   - Governor did not pass this bill at this time. The hope is that it will be reintroduced with necessary modifications. Barry commented it was reintroduced and there were enough votes to override the Governor’s veto
   - Alicia noted that many communities have been meeting with MAPC and National Grid to pilot renewable thermal technology to replace natural gas.

   - Since the last time schools was in session, the plan was to have the Tufts Energy Conference end-February. The content team is in the process of organizing speakers, dates have been moved to March 11-13. MIT conference is the same weekend. Dates have not been rescheduled and speakers are still being confirmed.
   - General theme: “Tipping points”—different sectors of climate change and the different tipping points we are facing, outcomes, and effects.
   - List of Topics that are a mix of policy and technology. These include Nuclear, Hydrogen vs Electric, Hydropower, Environmental Justice, boosting employment in wind energy, etc. Hoping to have a couple different formats.
   - Sam will provide updates on specific speakers upon confirmation of attendance.
   - Cost of attendance is currently being discussed once virtual platform is finalized
   - Bob and Alicia asked that materials be shared for dissemination of information about the event

6. Subcommittee reports and discussions for 2021 activities 7:25–8:25

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Promoting Solar Energy (Barry, Luke, and Bob)
- Barry shared 3 general goals 1) take education done internally and bring it to the broader community, 2) how to build on our success with solar roofs on commercial property in order to pursue low-income benefits, 3) monitoring changes in federal/state policy
- Bob asked Alicia regarding state-wide incentive programs this year (re: Solarize).
- MassCEC Solarize is not running this year

Tree and Urban Canopy Management (Lauretta, Luke, and Martha)
- No specific updates since the subcommittee was not able to meet
- Continue to promote educational opportunities to the community (as recommended in the Tree Report). One event was with Tufts.
- Bob mentioned coordinating with Arbor Day, City Nature Challenge

Building Energy Management (Dave, Lauretta, Kathleen, Luke, Jessica, and Martha)
- BEM subcommittee was able to meet last month
- Dave provided a background of the BEM subcommittee
- Some topics of discussion at subcommittee meeting include: content curation, building types/top concerns, matching to available programs, developing a set of presentations geared to Medford residents, subcommittee members act as subject-matter experts
- Bob mentioned the subcommittee could consider topic of indoor air-pollution and lack of indoor air quality standards for residents

Transportation Management (Barry, Bob, and Martha)
- Bob presented regarding the Transportation Subcommittee Discussion
- Slides included. Topics discussed include: looking ahead to the end of fossil fuel powered vehicles, the future of work and commuting, sustainable transport in Medford, Equitable access to transportation
- Alicia commented that there has been discussion on shuttle services for resident. Tufts runs a few shuttles. High school students are required to take MBTA (expect Fulton Heights), no shuttles/busses provided. It is not cost-effective to run shuttles where MBTA exists (MBTA communities do not get subsidies). The City has looked at public charging stations in public parking lots (not free, but available for use). Concerns in South Medford include overnight parking
- John mentioned developing a pilot program to include charging stations on the street (on the sidewalk) in order to analyze challenges/hurdles.
- Dave (re: idling, green line extension): Use pandemic as a part of messaging.

Energy Educational Forums (Lauretta, Kathleen, Bob, and Jessica)
- Bob presented on the work of this subcommittee
- Slides included. Topics include: working with other subcommittees, other community groups (Tufts, Bike Commission, Walk Medford, Public School system & special requests), timing of live outreach events (Tufts Energy Conference, Earth Day, Fall symposium event), Development of Online Content
- Current priority: Publicize Tufts Energy Conference
- Harvest Your Energy Festival: Alicia noted that the pandemic has limited planning efforts/in-person gathering. They are cautiously optimistic that an outdoor gathering will be possible this Fall.
- Alicia mentioned new buildings (library, police station) will be looking to release information about the buildings/promoting environmental achievements & topics. The US

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Library Building Commissioners are publishing a book about green libraries, one of the chapter's captures Massachusetts, in particular the Medford Library. Alicia will be circulating the materials.

Dave shared Montgomery County’s virtual open house (link: https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/green/climate/index.html) that connects to their climate action plan. Medford might be able to introduce virtual building plaques that note the environmental achievement of individual buildings.

6. New Business
   ● None at the time
   ● Tree Plan, Tufts Energy Conference, Updates to Subcommittees will be discussed next month

7. Adjourn

Community Development is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Energy and Environment Commission Meeting
Time: February 1, 2021 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/96291215902

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

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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, 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.

**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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