Medford Energy & Environment Committee (MEEC) Agenda
April 4, 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, Dave Hampton, Martha Ondras, Jessica Parks, Chris Hogan, and Benji Hiller.
Members: Luke McKneally, Bob Paine (chair), Gaston Fiore, Lauretta James, Martha Ondras, Jessica Parks, Benji Hiller.
Guest: Lois Grossman

1. Administration 6:30-7:00
   ● Greetings, roll call, and introductions of guests
   ● Review of minutes from March 7, 2022 meeting
   ● Administrative updates from Alicia Hunt
   ● Committee events for 2022 updates, including the June 18 Circle the Square event
   - April 19th - Patriot’s Day Celebration
   - April 30th - City-wide cleanup day
   - Rain barrel sale: visit [www.greatamericanrainbarrel.com/community](http://www.greatamericanrainbarrel.com/community/) and select ‘Medford.’ Barrels are offered at $79 for painted and $74 for unpainted, and will be available for pick up on Wednesday May 11th, 5:00-8:00pm at Medford High School, 489 Winthrop St. Deadline for purchase is 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 3rd. Volunteers needed for the distribution
   - Martha will collect ideas and things for Circle the Square in June while Paul is out of commission. Suggestion that we get tree ordinance information to have at this event.
   ● Brief summary of Tufts Energy Conference and availability of recorded presentations - Bob is working to get access to these, he couldn’t go this year because it was during the week.

2. Update from Tree & Urban Canopy Subcommittee on the tree ordinance, Comprehensive Plan, Forestry Department, Arbor Day, ARPA American Rescue Plan funding, Senate Bill S.504. state legislation for funding of new tree planting, updated Zoning Ordinance
Tree Ordinance:
   - Lauretta reached out to city solicitor to help with answering questions, etc last week.
   - They are aware that there are other tree ordinances, that funds can co-mingle with other funding
   - A lot of this is in the appendix of the tree report, including examples of existing ordinances and samples of permits.
   - Lauretta is going to reach out to newer councilors who might not be familiar with this effort

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

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- sub committee would like to recommend that they do a temporary tree preservation ordinance to give them time to write a full ordinance. This would prevent clear-cutting of large healthy trees during the writing of the draft.
- Gaston working on language to allow cutting of trees that are shading south-east & south-west roofs to install solar.

**Comprehensive Plan:**
- Comprehensive Plan Meeting - open for public comment, the draft will be available in July; they were pleased to see climate resilience including a recommendation for a possible tree ordinance. Website https://www.medfordcompplan.org/

**Forestry Department**
- Forestry Dept is quite small, a lot of work to remove stumps. Looking forward to working with the new DPW Director who may be more willing to fund the Department.
- Staffing to manage permits? Can't build department funded only by permits. Hiring interns might be an option for it.

**Arbor Day**
- April 29th, the city always celebrates Arbor day because we're a Tree City USA. Local arborists typically donate time to the city.
- Can we bring tree info to Circle the Square

**ARPA funding**
- There was a public meeting March. The city is taking suggestions of how to spend ARPA money. It's to remedy the impacts of covid, can't be for pre-existing conditions. There's info on the city website and - https://www.medfordma.org/arpa/

**Senate Bill S.504. state legislation for funding of new tree planting**
- funding to help with reforesting, maybe private property trees. It needs funding, not sure how to fund this idea.
- Lauretta asked the Mayor if she would consider supporting this bill, and speak to the other Metro Mayors about it.
- Paul was considering writing a letter that the Energy Committee could support
- Would create advisory tree committees, would need to submit a plan on how you're going to reforest your city, and provide administrative support and funding.

**Zoning Recodification**
- Draft on the city website, there's a version that shows the edits made by the Planning Board
- They expect to do more zoning change after the Comprehensive Plan is finished
- Concerned about ADUs, would like an allowance for existing trees

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**3. Update from the Transportation Subcommittee, including possible discussions by representatives from the Bike Advisory and Complete Streets Committees, as well as Walk Medford and Walk Boston.**

Marth gave a presentation. Slides attached.
- 30% of vehicles are through traffic - not ending in Medford, our traffic problem is a regional problem.
- Health concerns from transportation emissions
- concerns about climate, including funding of major roads
- Walk Medford has been very active in the city, Martha shared their platform.
- pushing to implement Complete Streets
- Obstacle is that many roads are owned and managed by the state
- Working on a snow shoveling ordinance

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working with the city on a wayfinding project
- improving safety at high crash locations
- worked with the city on a sidewalk audit, much of the sidewalks are in poor shape
- There is state funding for city & state transportation projects.
- Many ongoing projects, including complete streets, South & Main intersection, upgraded crossings, MBTA projects, DCR has projects
- Gaston - Medford doesn’t seem to have a people-moving study - where are people going to and from; requirements that these streets are redone within the Complete Streets guidelines; Wants a Complete Streets Master Plan
- Alicia gave a quick briefing on the MBTA project - everyone should keep an eye out for when that goes public because its a dramatic change to current bus service and will need public comment. Some of the change will definitely be beneficial with much more frequent service in some areas.
- Careful about competition between businesses and bike lanes - looking at deliveries as well as cyclists - need to figure out to get all of this to work together.
- Gaston asked about shared use paths along the rivers - [https://mysticriver.org/greenways](https://mysticriver.org/greenways)

4. Volta Charging/Sign Permit – revisit discussion based upon updated information 8:00-8:15
   - Bob invited Alicia to share the information about Volta that they sent since our last meeting. Does the committee now want to support their approval at City Council?
   - Board voted to send their endorsement of this program.

5. Other committee business (heat pump follow-up; stretch code updates, etc.) 8:15-8:30
   - Stretch code
     - it wasn’t as aggressive as people wanted,
     - Very focused on new buildings and silent on existing buildings
     - it didn’t give a definition for net-zero; it said “all electric works” because the grid will be net-zero by 2050.
     - It doesn’t give communities that want to push for higher performance a significant increase to opt-in to
     - The hope was that the net-zero would ban gas, but we don’t think the DOER can do that. It wasn't required by the law.
     - pushes for higher performance envelopes with high efficiency inside.
     - City & Mayor signed on to letters about these issues.

6. Adjourn 8:30
Community Development is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Energy and Environment Commission Meeting

Time: April 4, 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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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 February 12, 2022, Governor Baker signed into law a supplement of COVID-19 fiscal appropriations and an extension through July 15, 2022 of certain authorizations related to public meetings.

This new law extends 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: 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.

Dave Hampton: Climate Resilience Associate at The Cadmus Group, practicing at the intersection of climate adaptation, international development, and resiliency planning with

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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 (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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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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