Medford Energy & Environment Committee (MEEC) Minutes
April 5, 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 Park

Attendance: Bob Paine (co-chair), Nicole Morell, Jessica Parks, Kathleen Mckenna, Chris Hogan, Martha Ondras
Staff: Alicia Hunt, Naina Chawla
Guests: Gaston Fiore, Benjie Hiller, Sue Brown

1. Administration 6:30-6:50

• Greetings, roll call, and introductions of guests
  o Chris Hogan (new member) in attendance
  o Guests:
    ▪ Gaston Fiore: Resident of Medford since 2019 - Engineer by training and interested in collaborating with the Committee in moving Medford in terms
    ▪ Benjie Hiller - Resident of Medford for over 40 years, interested in environmental issues, has submitted application to be a member of the Committee
    ▪ Sue Brown

• Review of minutes from March 1, 2021 meeting
  o Minutes approved

• Administrative updates from Alicia Hunt, including committee memberships
  o Email list coordination needs to be improved to include new members
  o New applications received from Mayor - will be going through these in the coming week(s)
  o Advertising for interns for the E&E/OCD Office - The office typically hire undergrad/grad students. Ideally 1-2 undergrads (HYEF) and a couple of graduate students to handle Economic, Housing E
  o Wednesday Evening - City + Human Rights Commission Community Conversation: Racism is a Public Health Crisis: What Does This Mean, & How Can the City Address This Crisis?
  o Library has a Green Campaign being chaired by Ken Krause
  o Walk-through of Labyrinth location this Thursday
  o Go Green Website has been corrupted - Website Hosts are working to resolve the virus

2. Event planning for 2021- Alicia (spring, summer, HYEF, Green Awards) 7:00–7:15

• Tentative - Oct 17th

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

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Green Awards Program - Potentially re-invent/revive this program is a question for discussion
  ○ First group (2012) - Looking for more candidates, we’ve given out so many, it’s hard to come up with new companies and organizations to give them to.
  ○ By next meeting Bob will send background on all past awards to see if it is program worth continuing → Pushed to next month’s meeting
  ○ Gaston: Would it help if GA are directed more toward housing/commercial projects? May help raise awareness among Medford residents about what green activities are happening
  ○ Alicia: Has to sign off on all new construction: related to Energy, they must meet building codes. Most new construction is meeting the scores, but not exceeding it much. Have not seen any net-zero/passive housing in the City. Nothing has been very impressive that is worthy of a Green Award. An award from the city wouldn’t increase incentive, but to build higher, for instance would incentivize.
  ○ Martha: We should look more broadly on types of projects eg: Adopt a Storm drain/Tree projects/Walkability projects - Food Link, MyRWA; consider middle school and high school students?
  ○ Bob will also be sending out the nomination form. Can bring idea’s to next month’s meeting

Events:
  ○ Alicia: Asked Jackie (comm director) and Lisa (events) → didn't have any big events of their radar: Nothing big planned for the Spring.
  ○ Lisa & CCSR working to organize Community Cleanups for this Spring (through the month of April/Earth Day)
  ○ Adopt a Street program (Students of CCSR) - To encourage more decentralized community initiative to clean up streets & parks

Student efforts and partnerships
  ○ Styrofoam Ban Project, was passed by the City Council in February 2020, however there is lots of sensitivity regarding added expense on businesses, so no one has pushed to move that forward. Next step is likely to work with
  ○ Alicia will ask Ellie Hunt to provide a list of projects Medford students are working on to send to the committee. (Ellie is co-chair of CCSR and is familiar with relevant projects)
  ○ Alicia mentioned that the committee could potentially partner with students to move their projects forward (Seconded by Gaston Fiore)
  ○ Students presented to Chamber of Commerce and Mayor on plastic silverware project, intended to encourage businesses to only give them out on demand, and to raise awareness that they are not recyclable.

Other Legislative efforts:
  ○ Nicole: Folks have reached out regarding Trees - Tree Ordinance remains in Zoning Subcommittee, Councillor Falco chairs this subcommittee and is the person to contact about moving that forward.
  ○ Meeting with the City Council Environmental Affairs Subcommittee upcoming (proposed idea is to examine leaf blower use in the city)

3. Tufts Environmental Conference (March 11-13) review – Bob Paine and Sam Glaser 7:15-7:30
   ○ Bob shared a presentation regarding the TEC (see slide deck for details)
     ○ Key Issues for Nuclear Future, Offshore Wind, Electric and Hydrogen Energy, Hydropower,
     ○ Inequities in promoting Solar (Climate Bill in the next section is trying to address this)
     ○ EU Green Policy - Similar to MA Bill/USA Infrastructure Bill efforts
     ○ China’s 2060 Goal to be net carbon-neutral (main strategies for energy transition)
     ○ Feedback from the conference: more representation from big tech companies, overall

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pleased, would like to see more workshops and opportunities for engaging other participants

4. Discussion of Enacted Massachusetts Climate Bill and Forthcoming USA Infrastructure Bill – Bob

   7:30–7:50

   • Bob shared a presentation regarding the MA Climate Bill (see slide deck for details)
     ○ Must triple the rate to cuts to GHG emissions
     ○ Does not allow a ban on natural gas from cities
     ○ Requires the state to buy significantly more megawatts of offshore wind
   • Bob shared a presentation regarding the Proposed USA Infrastructure Bill (see slide deck for details)
     ○ Pays for electric vehicles and electric charging stations
     ○ Federal funding for communities impacted by highway development through the community
     ○ Funding for quality of life at home → modernizing public schools, retrofitting affordable homes and commercial buildings, amongst other things

5. Subcommittee reports and discussions for 2021 activities

   7:50-8:20

   • Promoting Solar Energy (Barry, Luke, and Bob)
     ○ Temporarily on hold
   • Tree and Urban Canopy Management (Lauretta, Luke, and Martha)
     ○ Unable to meet last month, no new updates; answered questions about the city’s policy now to plant “right tree, right place” to prevent future problems with trees and overhead wires.
   • Building Energy Management (Dave, Lauretta, Kathleen, Luke, Jessica, and Martha)
     [note – this subcommittee will likely want to discuss heat pump possibilities for Medford]
     ○ Kathleen: HeatSmart - a program from the state that works wAbode Energy Management has worked with the City of Cambridge. They vet heat-pump installers and educational outreach about heat pumps. Opportunity for 40 - 60% carbon reduction, 0% HEAT loans are available for this, rebates through the state/MassSAVE
       ▪ Melrose (managed by Ken Pruit) and Arlington have both done this program
       ▪ Alicia may have contacts at Abode Energy Management for Kathleen to connect with
     ○ Kathleen is interested in assisting in running this program but unable to lead its organization. There is a need for volunteers to lead and run such a program.
     ○ Martha asked about what the incentive/pay back was for a homeowner to opt into replacing infrastructure with heat pumps. Alicia notes that it is situational, that often it makes sense to retrofit a building when it’s coming for time to replace an existing system
     ○ Bob notes that there may be financial incentives offered by the state and federal government. Medford should take the opportunity to plan.
     ○ Chris Hogan will join this subcommittee
   • Transportation Management (Barry, Bob, and Martha)
     ○ There is a new MAPC Report on traffic-related air pollution in MA, COVID-19, and Environmental Justice. Medford is in the top quintile for air-pollution for roads. Martha will share the report with the committee.
     ○ Funding from a COVID-related grant has secured two new bus shelters with solar-powered lights.
   • Energy Educational Forums (Lauretta, Kathleen, Bob, and Jessica)
     ○ working to see if they can get MAPC to present on their report in Medford

6. New Business

   8:20-8:30

   • Alicia shared the public interface for the Police Station’s solar array:

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ment#/dashboard  The array is 60kW and owned outright by the City.

- The City is selling Rain Barrels again this year from the Great American Rain Barrel. The rain barrels are from repurposed olive barrels. The deadline for ordering is 4/21/21. Rain barrel pickup is on 4/28/21 from 5 - 7pm. Seeking volunteers to help staff the distribution. Link for more information: https://www.greatamericanrainbarrel.com/community/medford-2017-rain-barrel-program/

- Question from the public: asked for updates on the municipal composting program. Alicia explained that there is an Evaluation Committee in the process of reviewing proposals submitted by vendors. On the committee are staff from OCD, the BOH, DPW, and the City’s Communications Director. She anticipates that a partner will be selected by the end of April.

- Question from the public: asked for an update on the active transportation collaboration with the Bicycle Commission. Bob mentioned several active transit groups and will connect with them.

7. Adjourn 8:30

- Chris Hogan made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Bob Paine. All in favor.

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**Medford Energy and Environment Committee Mission:** To promote policies and actions that make Medford more sustainable by encouraging resource conservation, improving climate resiliency, and increasing the use of renewables to meet present and future needs of the Medford community.
Community Development is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Energy and Environment Commission Meeting

Time: April 5, 2021 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

https://zoom.us/j/96291215902

Meeting ID: 962 9121 5902

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,96291215902# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 962 9121 5902

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/

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, 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.

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 20+ years’ experience in architecture, planning, and construction. His experience includes...

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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 is a 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.

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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