Medford Energy & Environment Committee (MEEC) Agenda
May 3, 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, and Chris Hogan

Attendance: Bob Paine (co-chair), Luke McKneally (co-chair), Barry Ingber, Jessica Parks, Martha Ondras, Kathleen McKenna, Dave Hampton, Gaston Fiore (new member), John Rogers, Benjie Hiller (new member), Paul Taslimi (new member)
Staff: Alicia Hunt, Naina Chawla
Guests: Lois Grossman, Sue Brown, Zachary Gordon

1. Administration 6:30-6:50
   ● Greetings, roll call, and introductions of guests
     o New members introduce themselves
       ▪ Gaston Fiore - background in AI, want to get involved in making Medford more sustainable
       ▪ Benjie Hiller - Lawyer, long career representing/dealing with environmental issues
       ▪ Paul Taslimi - Biomedical scientist, been in the Boston area since 1996, Medford resident for 21 years. Want to get youth interested in E&E
   ● Review of minutes from April 5, 2021 meeting
     o Minutes approved
   ● Administrative updates from Alicia Hunt, including committee memberships
     o The Mayor will be appointing Gaston, Benjie, and Paul to the committee
     o Alicia will be hiring new interns in the coming weeks for the coming year. Total of 4-5 students (based on funding and staffing requirement).

2. Alicia Hunt to provide discussion of on grant requests and lobbying happening at the state and federal level, and a request of an effort that members could participate in. 6:50-7:05
   ● There are a number of programs that the Office applies for - in particular, the MVP program. The City has been working with the Resilient Mystic Collaborative has been applying for joint/regional grants (e.g. Stormwater retention in Upper Mystic, building infrastructure that serves the whole watershed near the food hub (located in Chelsea/Everett)
   ● The MVP program has been getting $10 mil/year. RMC could apply for projects that could apply for nearly half of this amount.

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

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RMC working on how to increase funding for this program

Plan for an outreach campaign about what needs to be improved in the watershed and what climate adaptation money is needed for

30 sec - 1 minute videos from all over the state about what climate adaptation funding can do (Tufts pool sprinkler, expanding tree canopy, getting under-represented communities to participate in the climate conversation)

Medford's residents could make a few videos regarding this to promote causes in the city

Dave's suggestion to create a Google doc with ideas for videos “This location could be a resilience hub that could support

in kayak saying “if this flooding continues then it could destroy the housing over there”

The idea is that money/funding is required to enable these actions/projects/initiatives to promote climate adaptation/action

Martha - are the main issues: heat island, flooding, resilience hubs? Are there other areas of concern?
  - Alicia: Currently working on some big ideas for storm surge flooding, heat impacts, severe storms and increased rain (large amount of water in little amount of time).
  - What about TikTok versions where you pass it to colleagues and pass it along from city to city
  - if we have price tags, include that in the video

Alicia will be making a google doc with ideas discussed and share it with the Committee.
  - Link to Google Doc: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XzWoL3gMQR6n61rPUI2cnIXex-pkAPgf77H-zzzq4qY00/edit

3. Review of Climate Action Plan 2021 Retrospective and look ahead to Climate Action and Adaptation Plan
- Alicia (see www.medfordma.org/departments/community-development) 7:05-7:20
  - In 2001, Medford created its first CAP. First municipal plan in MA
  - Very early climate work with ICLEI, Medford has been involved in regional and int’l climate action as early as 2001
  - Alicia shared screen to show the committee the CAP 2001 Retrospective Report
  - 2021 review added to the recommendations from the 2001 version of the report
  - In the last 20 years, what has happened in Medford
  - Linked on the City’s website, released on Earth day
  - Office released first combined Newsletter (Can sign up on the webpage)
  - New Plan - CAAP (2021):
    - Met with the Outreach & Community Collab working group in April.
    - CAAP tries to figure out the best way to include diverse voices in climate action
    - Alicia + Consultant are reading all the strategies goals with equity in mind.
    - Coming out with the first rough draft.
    - These will be reviewed by City staff.
    - Will also be making it available to this Committee.
    - There will also be a public meeting where the draft plan will be shared/presented. (Tentatively in June/July)
    - The goal is to present the final plan in the fall.
    - Committee members reiterated sharing the draft plan as early as possible

4. Event planning for 2021 (spring, summer, HYEF) and discussion of the Green Awards program 7:20–7:45
  - Any other event apart from HYEF?
  - At the moment, there is not.

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- There might be events like “circle the square” -- might be too complex to pull off this summer
- HYEF: Tentatively planned for Oct 16 (Saturday). If there is not a surge, that is a possibility. At the moment, you can hold an event with 150 people outdoors (with masks). The expectation is that in October we could do this. Not 100% - dependent on surge/variant
- Green Awards Program:
  - Bob sent out historic awards list
  - Issue: Is it worth continuing? Difficult to come up with candidates
  - Bob sent out a nomination form
  - A number of committee members think that the Committee should opt out of continuing this program (at least on an annual basis). Seems forced at times
  - The challenge of doing it ad hoc is the risk of missing potential candidates.
  - Possible idea: Have a simplified form where an individual can nominate someone/recognize someone. Takes the initiative to do it by emailing a member of the Committee
  - rolling applications/nominations and rolling recognitions (could include in office newsletter)
  - Revamp the program - Award encourages behavior change
  - Discussion/deliberation cannot happen over email, only public meeting
  - Potentially leverage Education Group before the next meeting
  - Bob will be sending out an email regarding next steps

5. Update on what's next for the Massachusetts Climate Bill and overall USA climate efforts – Bob 7:45–7:55

- Bob shared a presentation (refer to slides)
- Climate Bill was signed on Friday, March 26, 2021
- It commits MA to an aggressive timetable to reduce GHG emissions
- A significant commitment toward EJ communities
- See slides for more information/summary of bill/next steps for Governor & next administration

5. Subcommittee reports and discussions for 2021 activities 7:55-8:20

- Promoting Solar Energy (Barry, Luke, and Bob)
  - Nothing to report
  - State is not organizing Solarize program for municipalities
- Tree and Urban Canopy Management (Lauretta, Luke, and Martha)
  - Trees Medford did an event on Arbor day
  - Committee has nothing to report
  - Bills currently in legislature -- discussion point for next meeting
  - May need to have something local (for Tree legislation/ordinance) to help mange the current opportunity that developers have to clear-cut sites. Want to ensure that this is done responsibly in the future.
  - Re: Staffing: Currently Mayor is meeting with Dept heads for budget/headcount. Will be released in early-June.
- Building Energy Management (Dave, Lauretta, Kathleen, Luke, Jessica, Martha, and Chris)
  - Nothing to report
  - Dave: One suggestion was for subcommittee members to act as experts during zoning/architectural process, as well as expanding review across other sectors (open space, climate resilience). potentially for the BEM subcommittee to assist with the CAAP review.
- Transportation Management (Barry, Bob, and Martha) – to discuss possible June presentation by Medford Bike Commission – Bruce Kulik
  - Bob shared slides regarding this update
  - Topics discussed include: background to subcommittee, other Medford committee involved

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with transport, April 28 Meeting of the Bicycle Advisory Commission
  o Complete Streets Advisory Commission: meet regularly with City staff working on traffic safety engineering, transportation planning
  o Discussion about concerns regarding driving with bike lanes
- Energy Educational Forums (Lauretta, Kathleen, Bob, and Jessica)
  o Contacts:
    Director of Science for the schools (Rocko)
    CCSR (Mike)
  o Fall Collaboration with the Tufts Energy Group

6. New Business 8:20-8:30
  ● For new members: to sign up for subcommittees, send Bob an email
  ● There a spreadsheet for subcommittees, needs to be updated: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1DNz6TCJQYQ0B-7jYX0NpSi9GKQ9scrtlQ2e5vflmeA/edit#gid=682493477
  ● Send Bob updated member profile/picture. Will be posted publicly on web page (https://medfordenergy.org/gogreen/medford-energy-committee/)

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

Topic: Energy and Environment Commission Meeting

Time: May 3, 2021 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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Dial by your location

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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/

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 projects in more than 40 countries. He is also a LEED AP BD+C: Core & Shell. For accommodations please call in advance: 781-393-2137 or TTY: 781-393-2516

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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:** 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.

**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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