City of Medford
Medford Energy & Environment Committee
City Hall Room 205
Medford, MA 02155
781-393-2137
enviro@medford.org www.medfordenergy.org

Medford Energy & Environment Committee (MEEC) Agenda
June 6, 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: Bob Paine (chair), Gaston Fiore (future co-chair), Paul Taslimi (future co-chair), Barry Ingber, Lauretta James, Dave Hampton, Martha Ondras, Jessica Parks, Luke McKneally, Benji Hiller, John Rogers, Kathleen McKenna,

Staff: Alicia Hunt, Patrick Snyder

1. Administration 6:30-7:00
   ● Greetings (quorum of 7), roll call, and introductions of guests
   ● Review of minutes from May 2, 2022 meeting
     ○ BP made motion to accept minutes, passed
   ● Administrative updates from Alicia Hunt
     ○ 4 new interns in the PDS office this summer! Including Patrick (present tonight), who will be coordinating the Harvest Your Energy Festival ; working with City council on Budget meeting this week
   ● Scheduling the MEEC summer meeting
     ○ Will be held in person on August 3rd 2022 in Bob Paine’s yard. Starts at 6:00 pm, welcome to bring along family (including kids, who can be entertained with sandbox, soccer, etc.).
   ● Dave Hampton news – moving to Northampton soon!
     ○ Will be stepping down from the committee and moving before the next MEEC meeting in August.
   ● Letter to Mayor regarding gas-powered leaf blowers
     ○ Received by Mayor today, June 6th, 2022. This letter may be passed along to the City Council soon. Input and opinions from their constituents might be required before further action is taken on gas-powered lawn/yard tool policies.

2. Plans for the Saturday, October 15, 2022 Harvest Your Energy Festival – Alicia 7:00-7:10
   ● AH: Team is working on bringing the coordination spreadsheet up to date. AH will work to ensure shredding and electronics recycling squads will be on site for the festival.
     ○ Update: Previous problems with drainage at the Festival site are being addressed by DPW. Will hopefully not be an issue this year.

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

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.
To Do: Put the Festival on the City Calendar, update relevant webpages, outreach to Festival exhibitors, PS/AH reach out to PDS Economic Development team about the possibility of distributing Green Awards to Exhibitors/Individuals.
  ○ An award for the Library on its new Net Zero status was discussed, although determined inappropriate as it was city-led/initiated. LMK suggested Library staff be recognised for their involvement in the project. Suggestion of “Special Edition” green library cards at the table.
  ○ Discuss/explore possible presentations at the festival (speeches, music performances, etc.), as well as other ideas for the festival. Pushed to further discussion at the August meeting.
  ● PT would like to display a poster depicting weed species in Medford.

There was a discussion of subcommittees, as the Committee wondered if it is necessary to have one for the HYEF. However, there is no need for formal meetings for all event updates, which can be given, as necessary at MEEC meetings.

  ● This discussion then shifted to discuss the relevance of all MEEC subcommittees if they should be changed to informal working groups, which will give suggestions on their subjects at MEEC meetings.
  ● MO made motion to disband subcommittees, which was seconded and passed.

3. Logistics for the June 18, 2022 Circle the Square event (3-7 PM; 7:10-7:20)

Note: there is a rain date of June 19, same hours. This part of the meeting is to plan on who will attend for the committee table.

  ● Need a foldable table. PT is taking point with Cache (organizing body) and will clarify if they are providing tables and the layout thereof at the event.
  ● EEC in search of materials for tabling. PDF will go through and see what there is in the office. Note that City Hall is Closed Friday, June 17th, so materials will need to be picked up before then.
    ○ Possible information from PDF: composting, climate plan, photo or poster board of the Library project as a talking point.
    ■ Re: Composting, GF raised a concern about the need for residents to pay an additional fee for composting.
  ○ Save the date card/distribution material for HYEF with other information on reverse side.
  ● Volunteers for Circle the Square:
    Available Saturday: Paul Taslimi, Bob Paine, Lauretta James, Martha Ondras
    Raindate: Jessica Parks, Martha Ondras, Paul Taslimi, Bob Paine (first 2 hours only)
  ● Note to Committee Members:
    ○ Send Paul Taslimi materials you want to be printed to display/hand out at Circle the Square.

4. Displays / handouts for the Circle the Square event 7:20-8:00

Potential poster material and handouts will be reviewed during this part of the meeting. Some candidate draft poster material (PowerPoint presentations) will be provided to the committee before the meeting. None Reviewed.

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

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.
5. Other committee business / subcommittee reports; 8:00 – 8:30

- Discussion about energy emissions: National Grid has a plan for how it is replacing fossil fuel gas with “renewable gas.” LMK addressed community supplementation of clean electric forms e.g., solar, although this will be a longer transition.
  ○ Can include information about this and other rebates at HYEF.
- Tree Working Group (LH): advocating to establish the tree reforestation project in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts from a Medford perspective. Reached out to Mayor, who wants to discuss with PDF and the Metro Mayors Climate Preparedness Task Force.
- Walk Medford (MO): Action on the Route 16 Traffic Calming Commission. Participated in a walking event with DCR, who reset some traffic signals to facilitate pedestrian movement.
  ○ AH: The City Engineer's Office is working with the Traffic Commission on new marked bike lanes/routes to the GLX station at Tufts. This project includes a survey of sidewalk conditions in the area to address safety/accessibility.
- Better Bus Project (BI): Discussed release of and feedback on the MBTA's Better Bus Project and how it affects Medford. There is a meeting next Thursday, June 16th at 6:00 pm for feedback on the “Inner Core” that includes Medford. Advance registration is required: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAvdOysri0vEt2lsVNRMd_7rZXnG-Bq4Rmu](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAvdOysri0vEt2lsVNRMd_7rZXnG-Bq4Rmu)

Reminder from Bob Paine: There is no July meeting. Send him agenda items for the August meeting.

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

Topic: Energy and Environment Commission Meeting

Time: June 6, 2022 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/

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.

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

**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.
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 experience in government, non-profit, and international development organizations. He provides expertise on climate adaptation, vulnerability, and resilience for USAID-funded projects in Africa. Dave is a Mechanical Engineer with a Master’s degree in Climate, Energy, and the Built Environment. For accommodations, please call in advance: 781-393-2137 or TTY: 781-393-2516
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.

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

**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.
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.

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

**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.