Medford Energy & Environment Committee (MEEC) Agenda
September 13, 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, Chris Hogan, Gaston Fiore, Benji Hiller, and Paul Taslimi.

Attendance: Bob Paine (co-chair), Martha Ondras, Lauretta James, Barry Ingber, Luke McKneally (co-chair), Gaston Fiore, Chris Hogan, Jessica Parks, John Rogers, Nicole Morell, Kathleen McKenna, Sue Brown? (10:20)

Staff: Alicia Hunt

Guests: Rosemary Lore, Ellie Hunt

1. Administration 6:30-6:50
   ● Greetings, roll call, and introductions of guests
     ○ Rosemary Lore: presenting an update for Tufts Energy Group
     ○ Ellie Hunt: attending on behalf of the Center for Citizenship and Social Responsibility (CCSR)
   ● Review of minutes from August 9, 2021 meeting
     ○ Minutes approved (8 - 2 - 0).
   ● Administrative updates from Alicia Hunt
     ○ Nina Nazarian is the City of Medford’s Acting Chief of Staff.
     ○ Dir. Hunt is working with the host service to address technical problems involving frequent bouncing of emails within the MEEC mailing list. Some problems have been resolved but there is still bouncing back of emails sent to Barry and Lauretta from some senders. Dir. Hunt is continuing to work with the hosting company.
     ○ There was some discussion on the application of Open Meeting Law to email correspondence and sharing of information.

2. Updates on HYEF planning/ Green Awards and other events 6:50-7:15
   ● A Wind Turbine Tour and EV Showcase will be held Saturday 18, 2021 from 11am - 1pm
   ● The HYEF is scheduled for October 16, 2021 from 12pm - 3pm. There are 31 exhibitors signed up so far, raffle prizes, and live entertainment. Several CCSR students will assist in running the electronics recycling activity. There are various roles for committee members to help assist during the Festival.

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.
Volunteers are asked to arrive at 10am, exhibitors are asked to arrive at 11am. There has been trouble securing a food vendor due to staffing constraints as a result of the labor shortage. If anyone knows of a potential vendor, let the Planning, Development, and Sustainability Office know.

3. Consideration of presentation by Matt Barlow – Barry 7:15-7:25
   ● Medford resident Matt Barlow is one of the lead authors of the IPCC report which was recently released. He wrote an article that has been widely circulated, which discusses the chapter of the report he worked on: Extreme Water Fall and Drought. He is co-author of the most recent edition of Science Magazine’s cover story. Mr. Barlow has offered to provide a presentation to the Committee and is available either October 4th or November 1st. Member Ingber suggests that the Committee dedicate 45 minutes to have Mr. Barlow present and answer questions, and that there be some outreach to encourage community attendance. Members opt to host Matt Barlow on November 1st, Barry will confirm with him.

4. Update from Tufts Energy Group – Rosemary Lore 7:25-7:30
   ● The first General Interest meeting will be held tonight, during which the group will discuss what events they can do in person. Tufts Energy Group is interested in energy-related speakers and looking for someone to speak about state and federal law on climate as well as climate severity. Dir. Hunt suggested the Resilient Mystic Collaborative as a potential presentation or discussion that would be of interest to Tufts students.

5. Tree and Urban Canopy Management subcommittee update on Tree Ordinance 7:30-7:50
   ● Paul T. intended to present about the tree canopy, but was unable to make it. Lauretta, Paul, and Gaston attended the Trees Medford Meeting last month and helped work on the draft tree ordinance. Sue added that Trees Medford is meeting weekly to discuss and work on the draft ordinance. They are looking for input on things that were added at the last meeting, such as affordable housing. Dir. Hunt provided some input on administrative functions. Looking at three areas: construction, protected trees on private property, and public trees. They expect to distribute it for comments and input in about a month. The Somerville ordinance was watered down a lot before it was passed.

6. Subcommittee reports and discussions for 2021 activities 7:50-8:15
   ● Promoting Solar Energy (Barry, Luke, and Bob)
     ○ Dir. Hunt notes that the City cannot offer suggestions of specific companies. There is some information on solar options housed on the Go Green website and Dir. Hunt provides general input via email to interested community members. Barry notes that the information sought depends on a person’s goal, whether it is to promote renewable energy or to save money. If the goal is to promote solar energy, then a way to do so would be to read up on and participate in the City’s aggregation program. If the goal is to save money, then tools such as Energy Sage can be used to inform decisions. Martha feels that an objective webinar such as ‘Solar for Dummies’ would be a good idea, especially if the host is unaffiliated with a particular vendor. It would be helpful to have solar consulting on a one on one basis. Luke is very knowledgeable about solar installations, and notes that each decision is a very individual situation. Bob poses organizing a webinar around this as a goal for next year.
   ● Tree and Urban Canopy Management (Lauretta, Luke, Martha, Paul, and Gaston)

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.
Building Energy Management (Dave, Lauretta, Kathleen, Luke, Jessica, Martha, Chris, and Gaston)

- The Mayor would be interested in the Committee working on an outreach and education program on heat pumps for Medford residents. MassSave is in the process of developing an incentive program for 1-4 units to replace the current program from MassSave that would incentivize highly efficient systems. It may not be available until mid 2022. The program would be pushing towards a "Path to Zero" and there are some good incentives for heat pumps.
- When considering how to push out information, residents more often listen to local information, in particular to their neighbors, before they will listen to the government or companies. Therefore, the most effective outreach is local grassroots outreach.
- Luke shared some information about Energy Sprong, which is also known as “Energy Leap.” It is a German process where there is overlaying of panelized envelope systems with mechanical systems outside and a new roof. It works in certain circumstances, but it works well when feasible. Here are two related links: [https://www.greenbuildingadvisor.com/article/net-zero-energy-on-a-mass-scale](https://www.greenbuildingadvisor.com/article/net-zero-energy-on-a-mass-scale) and [https://energiesprong.org/](https://energiesprong.org/)
- An article was shared about building shell adaptation and energy conservation retrofit efforts in New York City and one pilot building in Boston: [https://www.greenbuildingadvisor.com/article/new-york-developer-adapts-a-european-template-for-deep-energy-retrofits](https://www.greenbuildingadvisor.com/article/new-york-developer-adapts-a-european-template-for-deep-energy-retrofits)
- The Governor will be speaking at a new passive house project. There will be a committee to explore energy efficiency and solutions for buildings. Boston and Cambridge have energy reporting ordinances for certain size buildings and are city-specific. This committee will be looking into how to require this reporting state-wide.

Transportation Management (Barry, Bob, Martha, and Gaston)

- Walk Medford is putting together a platform of what their group stands for and what they hope to accomplish in the next year. Predominantly pedestrian safety. Highlights include DCR's Master Plan for Parkways that addresses roads in Medford, Medford’s Complete Streets and Safe Routes to Schools Improvements.
- The MBTA is doing a network redesign. They are using data from smartphone carriers to understand desired destinations and end points. Their goal is to map these into stops and re-layout routes for the MBTA bus system in the greater Boston area. They are getting ready to share publicly several routes, one of which could go from Malden Center, to Medford Square, to Arling Center. Anyone interested can sign up for their email list: [https://www.mbta.com/projects/bus-network-redesign](https://www.mbta.com/projects/bus-network-redesign)
- Green Line extension to Medford delayed until the summer. The City is pushing for the Environmental Study for the Green Line Extension to Rt16.

Energy Educational Forums (Lauretta, Kathleen, Bob, Jessica, Gaston, and Paul)

7. Update on State Implementation of the Climate Bill - Bob 8:15-8:20

- Public meetings will be held in October to discuss the process and timeline for meeting emission limits for 2025 and 2030 and developing the clean energy and climate plan. The meetings will discuss the setting of baselines and goals, and development of a plan for achieving the goals.

8. New Business to consider for future meetings 8:20-8:30

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 High students typically want to do environmentally minded projects. Dir. Hunt may send
mail to the committee about student projects and ask for volunteers to talk with the students about
the projects, rather than waiting for a monthly meeting to bring them forward. Then members
would report back after the fact, rather than before the projects, to provide timely responses to the
students.
• Lauretta asks whether it is possible to share sustainable products with the group. The Committee
recognizes that they cannot make recommendations. Martha proposes that a policy be developed
about sharing of products versus neutral information as a group.
• Chris suggests that in the future guests be invited to speak earlier in the meeting to respect their
time.

7. Adjourn

8:30

Community Development is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Energy and Environment Commission Meeting

Time: September 13, 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/

During the State of Emergency.” This Act includes an extension, until April 1, 2022, of 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

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.
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.

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. 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.

Laurette 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.

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.
**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.

**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**: 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**: (to be provided)

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.
**Paul Taslimi**: (to be provided)

### 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.