Medford Energy & Environment Committee (MEEC) Agenda
May 4, 2020 @ 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 Parks

Attendance: Alicia Hunt, Denis MacDougal, Amanda Centrella, Bob Paine, Barry Ingber, Kathleen McKenna, Nicole Morell, Dave Hampton, Jessica Parks, Martha Ondras, Lauretta James
Staff: Alicia Hunt, Denis MacDougal, Amanda Centrella
Guests: Norman Kaplan, Nate Owen (Ampion)

1. Administration

   ● Greetings, roll call, and introductory remarks
     ○ Bob mentions that there is a Student Zoom event commemorating 50 years of establishment of the EPA and Earth Day on Wednesday. [https://zoom.us/j/931879641](https://zoom.us/j/931879641)

   ● Review of minutes from April 6, 2020 meeting
     ○ John Rogers was not in attendance at the last meeting. The minutes were amended to reflect this and approved as amended.

   ● Administrative update and dealing with the coronavirus issues
     ○ City Hall is still closed to the public. Staff may go in but only on an as needed basis.
     ○ The City Hall will look to the Governor and State Health Department for guidance on when and how to reopen

2. invited Presentation about Community Solar by Nate Owen of Ampion

   ● Nate Owen and Bill Kanzer of Ampion, a company interested in providing Community Solar Energy, hosted a presentation.
     ○ ‘Community Solar’ is defined as where customers can buy a percentage of the output from a solar farm. These are relatively small solar farms (installed on rooftops, on brownfields, etc).
     ○ They estimate that 1.3 cars are taken off the road for every household that signs up. Anyone with a utility bill is able to sign up for community solar.
     ○ Ampion supports many municipalities in having municipal buildings/infrastructure source from

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community solar as well as aiding individual residents in accessing community solar.

- Their process: The customer signs up, Ampion’s array produces solar which goes to the grid, the customer’s bill has credits from Ampion on it, then Ampion invoices the customer for $0.90 of every dollar of credit that they put on their utility bill. This offsets both supply & delivery on invoice. Customers will save approximately 10% on their utility bills over the course of the year.

- Qualified members must have: a valid utility account, annual usage >1000 kWh, auto payment details, and a contract signature. Ampion is unable to operate in municipal light plants in MA.

- They can set up a partnership with referral bonus for the partners, which can include a municipality. There is no sign-up or exit fee, but there is a 6-month cancellation notice and 5 year terms that auto-renews; MA DPU only allows them to add and remove people twice a year, which is why the 6-month notice is required.

- They are able to partner with communities that have Aggregation.

- The purchaser contracts directly with the asset-owner (which is not Ampion). The asset-owner can range from regional banks, large national energy companies, Wall Street bank, one-man shops, and includes anyone who has invested money into one of the solar farms.

- Barry - Believes in Community Solar, especially with batteries. Who gets RECs? Who is the contract with?
  - Because of the MA SMART program the utility takes the RECs. The contract is directly with the asset-owner, not Ampion.

- Bob- Where are the solar farms located and what is their capacity?
  - They are located in Amherst, Westbury, many different locations. Capacity for many thousands of customers.

- Dave- How is this metered?
  - They are able to service many different kinds of accounts (commercial, municipalities, houses of worship, labs, etc.).
  - They are working still to make the product more available to low-income customers.

- Alicia- A reminder that the city would need to do a public selection process for any partnerships with a commercial entity.

3. Energy and Environment Projects 7:20-8:10

- MEEC priorities and goals – establishment of new subcommittees
- Event Planning and Communication: Spring, Summer, Fall – HYEF

4. Consideration of Leaf Blower Ordinance (Nicole) 8:10-8:20

5. New Business 8:20

6. Adjourn 8:30

Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/95001731223?pwd=MVJra0x0K3NkSzNhNqSYTlYnN05WQT09

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Meeting ID: 950 0173 1223
Password: 015224
One tap mobile
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+13126266799,,95001731223#,,1#,015224# US (Chicago)

One tap mobile
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, G.L. c. 30A, §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. A reminder that persons who would like to listen 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, and we will post a record of this meeting on the city/town’s website as soon as we are able.

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 a green building project manager at New Ecology, Inc., a sustainable development non-profit organization.

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: has experience in business management, sales, event organizing and art & design. Previously, she was president of the MA Elevator Safety Association, on the Board of Directors of Mobius artist group and owner of a service business. She has worked with the MA Dept. of Public Safety and other groups to promote their causes. She has Professional Florist Training from Cass Florist School and is a MA Real Estate Agent.

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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.

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Nicole Morell: currently a member of the Medford City Council. She is a social media manager at MIT. Her work often touches on environmental and energy issues as she works to share news and tech developments and stay abreast of the newest advances in these areas. She 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 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: Master’s candidate in environmental health at Tufts. She is also 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: has extensive experience to develop greenhouse gas reduction plans, implement energy efficiency projects, establish energy reporting protocols, and create opportunities for occupant engagement and education. She is currently a Senior Project Manager for Energy Efficiency projects at MIT, supporting campus GHG reduction efforts. She holds a B.A. from Bennington College in Ecology and Architecture, and a Master of Urban and Regional Planning with a focus on Sustainable Development from the University of Michigan.

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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