Medford Energy & Environment Committee (MEEC) Agenda
February 6, 2023 @ 6:30 PM
Via Zoom Virtual Meeting Connection (connection information below)

Office of Energy and Environment: Alicia Hunt

Committee Members: Gaston Fiore (co-chair), Benji Hiller, Barry Ingber, Lauretta James, Kathleen McKenna, Luke McKneally, Martha Ondras, Bob Paine, Jessica Parks, John Rogers, and Paul Taslimi (co-chair).

Committee Attendance: Paul Taslimi, Bob Paine, Benji Hiller, Barry Ingber

Guests: Lois Grossman

Staff: Alicia Hunt, Lilly Worth

Meeting start: 6:35
6:30-7:00  Administration.

1. Greetings, roll call, and introductions of guests.
2. Review of minutes from January 6, 2023 omitted from discussion due to lack of quorum
3. Administrative updates from Alicia Hunt.
   a. Full Time Positions posted for CPA Administrator, Economic Director, and Housing Planner. We have a 1-year grant to find a Climate planner (anticipated next fiscal year, but ideally sooner).
   b. Intern positions posted including Tisch summer fellows. Engineering office also submitted a position for a summer intern.
   c. Comprehensive plan is now official - it has been adopted by the Community Development Board. Mayor’s office will do additional outreach, and will create an Implementation Committee.
   d. Update on Stretch Code: In Massachusetts, municipalities have no control over the building code - this is only changeable by the state. The stretch code is a more sustainably-focused code that municipalities can choose to accept (created in 90s). There is now an advanced stretch code that is stricter on energy standards; as before, it is opt-in. Alicia has information prepared; she will send along research prepared by Ryn Piasecki.

   Action item (Alicia)-> Either Alicia or Ryn will present on this at a later meeting.
   i. The City Council asked PDS to prepare language for them to vote on to adopt the advanced stretch code.
   e. Mayor approves October 14 for Harvest your Energy. Mayor would also like to meet with

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.
the committee to help brainstorm ideas to engage the public at HYEF. Would the committee be amenable to a special meeting just on the subject of HYEF (since regular E&E meetings always conflict with School Committee)? Bob proposes to have the April meeting on the second Monday.

-> Action Item - Alicia will check with the Mayor first to see if she is available on 2nd and 4th Mondays in April.

4. Review of committee meeting dates for 2023 omitted from discussion due to lack of quorum

7:00-7:30 Suggested priorities for 2023 omitted from discussion due to lack of quorum
Discussion
All
I wanted to ask everyone to provide some input into our priorities for 2023. The following list contains many of the previous priorities that the committee has advocated and focused on:

1. Annual organization of the Harvest Your Energy Festival at the McGlynn Middle School.
2. Support and promote electrification of public transport
3. Support and promote tree equity across Medford and in particular in areas where there is a paucity of canopy (through our continuing cooperation with Trees Medford)
4. Presentation of the Green Awards to Medford residents and businesses that have made substantial contributions to our local environment.
5. Engagement of High School students in support of various environmental issues.
   a. How can we help increase engagement?
   b. Solid waste initiative at the High School?
   c. What happened to the High school orchard idea?
   d. Other Project ideas?
6. Attending and participating in community events to provide education and outreach to Medford residents regarding energy and environment issues.
7. Developing urban meadows in Medford?
8. Other ideas and initiatives?

7:30-7:40 Any updates on tree and leaf-blower ordinances?
Lauretta? No specific ordinance updates.
Paul mentions that we need to focus on adding trees to South Medford (in contrast to places like the cemetery, where trees are abundant)

iTree may be of interest to the tree ordinance to help set fees.
iTree’s data is 2001 and 2011, probably satellite data. Presumably there will be another data update soon.

Tree equity - using statistics to make determinations about where trees should be planted (for example, using census data).

7:40-8:20 Presentation: How to:
Paul
Use iTree Canopy Software
Use iTree Landscape software

Free software, easy to download. Once you download the software, you have access to many modules to choose from. https://www.itreetools.org/

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 gives a walk-through of how to use iTree Canopy & iTree Landscape (see video recording for tutorial).
Best practices: Choose correct area of interest (city boundary, block group etc). Save your work often

Bob points out that it may be prudent to take out the census tracts that include the Middlesex fells, which is owned by the state and has good canopy coverage, skewing the data citywide

The PDS office should be aware of iTree as a data source

8:20-8:30
Other business

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.
Community Development is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Energy and Environment Commission Meeting

Time: January 9, 2023 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 July 16, 2022, Governor Baker signed into law An Act Relative to Extending Certain State of Emergency Accommodations. This Act allows public bodies to continue holding meetings remotely through March 31, 2023 without a quorum of the public body physically present at a meeting location, and to provide "adequate, alternative" access to remote meetings.

In accordance with this Act, 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. 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. We will also 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

**Gaston Fiore (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.

**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.

**Luke McKnealy:** 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.

**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.

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.
**Bob Paine:** 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.

**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.

**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.

**Paul Taslimi (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 Planning, Development and Sustainability. Alicia started working with the city in 2010 as the Energy Efficiency Coordinator and has managed extensive energy efficiency and renewable energy projects for 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.