City of Medford
Medford Energy & Environment Committee
City Hall Room 205
Medford, MA 02155
781-393-2137

Medford Energy & Environment Committee (MEEC) Agenda

April 12, 2023 @ 6:30 PM

Via Zoom Virtual Meeting Connection (connection information below)

Office of Energy and Environment: Alicia Hunt, Director

Committee Members: Lauretta James, Kathleen McKenna, Bob Paine, and Paul Taslimi (Chair), Martha Ondras, Dan Pappo, Lois Grossman, Sara Singh

Staff: Lilly Worth

Guests: Rocco Cieri, Sayaka Hirano, Eko Yamada, Susan Altman

MINUTES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:30-6:35</td>
<td>Administrative:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Greetings, roll call, and introductions of guests.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:35:7:05</td>
<td>Mr. Cieri will speak on the current environment and sustainability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Rocco Cieri (Science</td>
<td>initiatives at the high school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director-MPS)</td>
<td>- Medford HS offers Environmental Studies as an elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Voc school now can take electives. An overwhelming number of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>these students will be exposed to environmental science. HS is</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>thinking about long term collaborations with E&amp;E - they are inviting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ideas and projects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Reintroduction projects: marbled salamanders in the Middlesex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fells (they received a grant for this). Salamander larvae are now</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>proliferating in one of the vernal pools.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Mr Cieri’s class is also working on reintroduction of the Blanding’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>turtle. Reintroduction projects are great for students - the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>organisms need to find homes in the wild once school is out.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
In Chemistry, students are working on water filtration - Pilot projects this summer - students will come up with a formal proposal and work with their community to carry out an environmental project. Mr Cieri estimates he can support 10 students to do these types of projects. Looking for community collaborators - Facebook announcements about these projects are under EarthWiseAware (EWA) - a group within the Fells area - Bob suggests that HS students may come attend our meetings - Zoo New England and EWA monitors the vernal pools in the Fells - Lauretta suggests that the HS students attend HYEF and create an exhibit - Question about ways to get parents engaged - this is key - Sara offers to help engage on social media to help spread the word - Events or communications at the HS coming up that E&E could engage with? K-5 grades have flyers. - Upcoming June “Fells Day” - Rocco will confirm date and send to Paul - Opportunities for lower grades? Some schools have STEM days - unclear what other programming is available - look into after school programs

| 7:05-7:30 |  
| --- | --- |
| Alicia | Administrative:  
2. **Introduction of new members** - Dan Pappo, Sara Singh & Lois Grossman  
3. **Review of minutes from March 6, 2023.** - minutes approved.  
4. **Administrative updates from Lilly Worth.**  
   4.1. **Local Guidelines for Resilient, Efficient, and Affordable Buildings Webinar:** Wednesday April 26, 2023 12:00 PM - Melrose, Malden, and Medford worked with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) to collaboratively develop sustainable and resilient building design guidelines for residential and mixed-use developments and retrofits. These voluntary guidelines will help these communities encourage developers to build affordable housing that is energy-efficient and climate-resilient. Join us for this interactive webinar to learn about the guidelines and hear from the communities about how they plan to use them to shape green, affordable

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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4.2.</th>
<th><a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0scuGrqi8gEtSJ76agr1OAzNOOghHd2Lo#registration">https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0scuGrqi8gEtSJ76agr1OAzNOOghHd2Lo#registration</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.3.</td>
<td><strong>Rain Barrel Distribution Event:</strong> Wednesday May 10. 3-5pm setup, 5-7pm distribution. You can help with carrying barrels, but also with registration (no physical labor). Volunteers can sign up <a href="https://forms.gle/41YUAPvzxRscJCFv7">https://forms.gle/41YUAPvzxRscJCFv7</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4.</td>
<td>Suggestion for a spring in-person meeting or social event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5.</td>
<td>Additional 2 committee applicants that the Planning Office will review and possibly nominate.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. **Review of committee meeting dates for 2023.**
- Bob offers to host an in-person meeting at his home

### 7:30-8:00

**All**

**Discussion:**
Follow up on conversation with Mayor regarding MEEC priorities for 2023 Tentative meeting (lunch) with the Mayor on April 27; 2-3 attendees would be good. Paul will send updates via email

### 8:00-8:05

**Lauretta**

1. **Events** - Lauretta reminds everyone of the Harvest Your Energy Festival, Circle the Square - needing volunteers for setup and tabling
   a. HYEF: October 14; we have 2 confirmed food vendors.
   b. Circle the Square: June 17

2. **Trees:**
   a. The tree ordinance is with City Council - no new updates or status. There may be a question about cost of implementation of the ordinance. TreesMedford may have more info.
   b. There will be a legislative briefing by the Sponsors of The Municipal Reforestation Bill on May 4th at 10 a.m. at the State House. They will describe the bill to gain support from colleagues to co-sponsor the bill. Organizations devoted to planting maintaining & preserving trees are invited to attend. (Zoom attendance may be possible). The bill will help municipalities maintain a percentage of tree canopy and offer paths for funding tree preservation efforts [https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S504](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S504)
   c. Arbor Day - the Mayor usually does some event in collaboration with Aggie Tuden (Tree Warden)

---

**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.
### Rodenticide

Recently, several Eagles and other natural predators of rodents have died painfully from rodenticide poisoning that is used to help control the rodent population. Lauretta spoke to Medford’s Animal Control Officer to discuss ideas to help limit the use of rodenticides by educating residents on other measures. Many residents were unaware of other ways to control rodents on their property. In prior years, the Board of Health had public meetings about rodent control to help educate the public about controlling rats/rodents (w/presentation from Yankee Pest Control) - it would be good to have another one of these meetings. Lauretta discussed these ideas with the Director of the Board of Health; having another public education meeting with guest presenter Yankee Pest and maybe our committee could help. Director agreed that could be possible. Also I would check with the City of Newton to find out about their use and effectiveness of rodent birth control, ContraPest and report back findings.

Add to list of committee priorities for Mayor? Lauretta will write up a proposal and send to Paul  

- Help the BOH with running a rodent control public education meeting.  
- Help find the recorded original public education meeting to replay.  
- City has a program for residents on private property - contact the Board of Health if you have a rodent infestation, and the BOH will arrange help. E&E can consider working to get the word out.  
- Investigate rodent birth control - ContraPest, used in Newton  
- Lois suggests citywide composting (per recommendation of Solid Waste Committee) to help with rat control  

### Talk on Urban Meadows

This is a priority for the committee this year - establishing some meadows in Medford. Paul presented slides on the importance of meadows. Can we build one in Medford? E&E should connect with other groups looking to implement urban meadows and urban pollinator initiatives (friends of the fells, garden club, etc)

---

**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.
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

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 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medford Energy and Environment Committee Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1.jpg" alt="Benjamin (“Benjie”) Hiller" /> 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image2.jpg" alt="Barry Ingber" /> 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image3.jpg" alt="Laurreta James" /> 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image4.jpg" alt="Kathleen McKenna" /> 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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
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.

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.

### Medford Energy and Environment Committee Municipal Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Martha Ondras</td>
<td>Master’s degree in environmental health at Tufts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Paine</td>
<td>Certified Consulting Meteorologist and Qualified Environmental Professional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Parks</td>
<td>with a background in sustainable design and urban planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Rogers</td>
<td>extensive background in energy conversion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Taslimi (co-chair)</td>
<td>Senior scientist at Merck Research Laboratories Boston</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
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.
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.