

MELROSE ENERGY COMMISSION Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 25, 2019 7:15

Basement Conference Room, City Hall

Attendees: Susan Baron, David Bliss Doug Dick Jeff Doody Rodney Dowell Martha Grover, Gary Lamoth
Lori Timmerman, Krisiti Heiman (on phone)

Secretary: Susan Baron, Rodney Dowell presiding

Guest: Angus Shaw, Cassandra Koutalidis

Welcome, Introductions, and Approve March Meeting Minutes:

Motion- *Approve March meeting minutes* – so approved.

Community Electricity Aggregation Program update (Martha Grover)

- Electricity aggregation program in opt out period. Many users default in, but other users need to apply.
- Melrose Local Green is at 10.5 cents. There is a higher preferred rate. If you have green up, can go Melrose cea.com website and call next era to opt in to program.
- Have been getting phone calls about program.
 - David Bliss will write letter for opting up to explain further. (article to Free Press, etc.)
 - Susan Baron will do flyer

Net Zero Stretch Code (Martha Grover)

In order go to continue work supporting this:

- Show up at May 7th hearing Boston at BBRS – see MCAN notice
- MEC should sign letter to state board (BRS) to support the Net Zero stretch code.
 - **Motion** – *MEC sign letter to BBRS to advocate Net Zero Stretch code- so approved.*
 - Kristi and Lana will sign this for MEC

Note: Paul Ormond- involved in code proposals for 2021. – may want to have him present to MEC

MEC FY19 Budget update (Martha Grover)

- Fiscal year budget closes June and MEC was appropriated \$2500 and we only spent 400.00. Will need to use funds before mid- June
 - Look into purchase of presentation material such as table cloth and signs.
 - Kristi will order new tablecloth and look into tee-shirts.
 - May use other funds for Towers project

Healthy Melrose Fair planning (Kristi/Lori)

- Signed up for EV show case for electronic car.
- Promotion
 - Martha wrote article
 - Will make lawn signs (after May 1st) Cassandra will help distribute
 - Hang signs in shop

- Day of Healthy Melrose
 - Will look for coverage. There will be two signups: one for EV and one for desk. (May use Sign up Genius)
 - May have a 'tree' – 'what is important to you' questions.
 - May also display accomplishments to date

Solar Subcommittee update (Jeff and Lori)

- First Baptist and Green Street church – in process of equipment design
 - Business contacts: Challenge is that often they do not own building. Talking to Walgreens (chain). Does not show interest
- Continue with engaging **non-profit organization**
- Green building award – Howie is doing write up and there will be presentation.

Melrose Towers project update (Martha)

- This is 164 units all using electricity. No plans seem to be available. (built in 1960s)
- Owner have high electric bills
- Martha, Lori and Cassandra met with people who lived in Towers and property manager.
 - Discussed aggregation program and DIY energy efficiency options.
 - MassSave visited, but only dropped off items and did not do installation.
- Can we schedule Saturdays and work with 25 units to work – do check list- outlet covers. Also look at other data?
 - Caulk windows
 - Install other items
 - Building envelope research
 - (measure heat loss)
 - Heat pump – in four units- will want to evaluate
 - Big roof solar project
 - Reach out to Travis to find out if MassSave just dropped off items

Climate Action Plan Subcommittee update (Gary L.)

- Request to use 10K of energy challenge funds on NZ planning process
 - Motion to use 10K for net Zero Energy planning process through MAPC for the Melrose match - so moved
- Put together Candidates forum for Net Zero Plan? Jeanna McNeil – sustainable Melrose will drive this.
- Building community capacity and interest in climate planning

Gary will put together draft - of looking at draft) two pager – alderman and other officials

We do not yet have MEC list of accomplishment – working on putting story together.

Tom Champoux, Lisa Trimble,

One Page from MAPC project. Use three communities to show how Net Zero can be planned and executed for smaller communities so they do not have to 're invent the wheel' – playbook- we are part of playbook development

Chamber of Commerce New Resident Bags (Martha)

Chamber of commerce resident bags. They want something meaningful for them – suggested net shopping bags (to replace plastic)

Next MEC meeting: Thursday, May 23rd, Cassidy Conf Room, City Hall.

Future events of interest:

- **Saturday, May 4th, 9:00 am - noon** Ell Pond Clean Up,
- **Tuesday, May 7th 7:00 – 8:30 pm** Climate Change and Regional Resilience Forum, at the Jenks Community Center in Winchester
- **Saturday, May 11th, 10:00 am to 1:30 pm** Healthy Melrose Family Wellness and Fitness Fair, , Melrose Athletic Complex, 360 Lynn Fells Parkway
- **Wednesday, May 15th at 6:00 – 9:30** Friends of the Fells Annual Meeting and 125th Anniversary, **pm**, Memorial Hall
- **May 20th, 2019 7:00 pm** City of Melrose Board of Alderman Appropriation Hearing for FY20, Monday, **at**, Melrose City Hall, 562 Main Street
- **May 29th at 6:00 pm**, Melrose Chamber of Commerce Networking Event on local sustainability initiatives, Eastern Bank, 441 Main Street
- May 28th UU church 7:15 sponsoring talk: Mass 350 for a better future and the Green New Deal

Find more information about the Melrose Energy Commission at www.melroseenergy.org