

MELROSE ENERGY COMMISSION Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 17, 2019 7:15

Milano Center, 201 W. Foster, 3rd Floor

Attendees: Tyler Ballew, Doug Dick, Martha Grover, Lori Timmerman, David Bliss, Susan Baron, Barbara Simko, Lisa Condon, Cassandra Koualics, Lisa Trimble Doug Harriott, June Cuttino, Jeff Doody, Bill Hanlon, Will Condon, Gary Lamoth, Krisiti Heiman Alanna Nelson

Secretary: Susan Baron

Welcome and introductions

1. **Approve November 2018 meeting minutes- motion** to approve – so moved
2. **Big Roof Solar Program (Lori)**
 - Working with Resident Energy.
 - Boston Solar. Have five houses of worship installing solar.
 - Several businesses have shown interest.
 - If Melrose can install 50kw in power, we can receive \$36,000 award. (from tiered pricing structure)
 - Met with Chamber of Commerce where members are concerned about costs. We are trying to meet them where they are.
 - There was also a non-profit organization meeting.
 - Asked for Resident Energy for assistance with roadblocks with financing and National Grid load problems
 - Discussion about difficulties of putting in larger solar – National Grid/ cap on solar projects/ Solar on DPW Tremont street – it was installed last year, but only now in testing. (just put meter in)
 - DOER may be concerned with the roadblocks
 - Also contact local National Grid administrator
 - Contact Lori if people are interested in this program
 - In order to address upcoming roadblocks, want to assemble talking points
 - Budget request – from Lori – want to award a Green building designation to houses of worship as well as business.
 - For now: \$200 to \$300 or \$40 per award - we have to spend monies by June. Window seal – etc.
 - Motion to allocate \$300 for Green Building (like big solar) recognition awards for the ones who have done this to date. – so moved

Upcoming event: January 30 – 7:00pm in Melrose Mayor’s meeting room: Sustainable Melrose, MEC and Wakefield groups will be meeting with Paul Brodeur and Jason Lewis

3. **Climate Action Plan** (Kristin and Gary – for Rodney)
 - Met twice since formation
 - Planning a presentation to Board of Alderman and other stake holders after April vote on override.
 - Content depends on grants that might come through
 - Grant from MAPC from EEA for a planning grant. Arlington and Natick. Contract is being worked out.
 - There may be meeting end of February.
 - March meeting - Mark Sandeen from Lexington will speak at the March MEC
 - May want to invite representatives from other towns with sustainability/resiliency committees: Cambridge and Belmont
 - In Hazard Mitigation Plan from 2004 is being overhauled which takes into consideration climate change.

4. Transportation Committee

- Lime bikes are in Melrose
- Ari, college intern, tried to show cleaner cars. Got Excise tax listing and is working on this count. From EV plates have shown a jump just through the plate
 - City may need to set up EV reservation system.
 - Also recommend that charging spaces be better delineated so non EV cars do not park there.
 - Enforcement and laws not well established
- Martha – VW funds just became available – can apply for grants. Need volunteers to read application materials (Lisa Capone-Condon and Cassandra K. and Kristi)
- Melrose is looking into establishing more charging areas. These are difficult to site. Either there is place or no power lines available.

5. Communication Strategy

- Who is audience and what is our goals and audience?
 - Audience: Melrose residents –
 - Goal: Want residential addresses be more efficient.
- We would like to start collecting photos, articles, outlines of what we are doing, content
- How do we share MEC projects in a communicate to public?
- Need to develop themes about what we want to communicate
- Pick areas and develop content

- Strategy to communicate monthly
 - Newspaper Columns
 - Science teachers – communicate to student
 - Healthy Melrose (Harvest your energy?)
 - Documentaries or movies to be done on monthly bases
 - Blog is up already – Need Blog posts
 - Other social media (Linked in)
 - April is Earth month – plan something for this.
 - STM on Main street can help with learning photo shop.

- We have large email list – what is communication strategy for use:
 - Possible newsletter for each month.
 - This would have upcoming events.
 - We have not identified influencers on this list. Can this be reviewed.
 - We may want to have goal of two blogs a month. (500 words per month)

- Multipurpose content on blog and newspaper and web –
- Contribute to mayor's blog

- David and Tyler – stock photos in Google group.
- Lisa Capone Condon -possible blog article

Future events of interest:

- MEC meeting: Thursday, February 28, Cassidy Conf Room, City Hall.
Budget request – from Lori – want to have Green building designation. Would like to expand this to houses of worship – put in paper a few other recognitions. Around 40 dollars per award. (\$200 to \$300) - we have to spend monies by June. Window seal – etc.

Motion to allocate \$300 for Green Building (like big solar) recognition awards for the ones who have done this to date. – so moved

Carol Oldenm -next meeting – stretch code and building code

Upcoming 2019 MEC Meetings

February 28, March 28, April 25, May 23
June 27, July 25, NO AUGUST Meeting, September 26, October 24
November 21 (room tbd), NO DECEMBER Meeting
Cassidy Conference Room (unless noted)