



MELROSE ENERGY COMMISSION

MELROSE ENERGY COMMISSION Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: Thursday, February 27, 2020 7:15 pm

Cassidy Conference Room, City Hall

Attendees: Tyler Ballew, Susan Baron, David Bliss, Doug Dick, Jeff Doody, Rodney Dowell, Martha Grover, Ellen Katz, Cassandra Koutalidis, Gary Lamothe, Susan Murphy, Alanna Nelson, Sunil Sainis, Barbara Simko, Lori Timmerman, Lisa Trimble

Presiding: Alanna Nelson and Sunil Sainis **Secretary:** Susan Baron

Guests: John N. Tramontozzi, City Councilor, Andrea Bates, Ian Moriarty, Patrick Prendergast, Elaina Rivais, Janine Venuti

- **Welcome and introductions**
- **Motion** to approve January meeting minutes – so approved

99 Washington Street Update (Ellen)

There was a meeting of the Planning Board on 2/26/2020 concerning the proposal for development of the Marty's Furniture complex. MEC voiced several concerns that were identified in a letter sent to the Planning Department.

MEC Concerns:

- Carbon footprint
- Smart growth zoning (support mixed commercial and residential use)
- Use of alternate energy sources (such as roof top solar)

Developer heard issues and is trying to be responsive:

- Building to be electric powered
- Mixed use addressed only with possible small store front
- Roof top solar not possible due to design
- Not quite at LEEDs standard.

Actions:

- Ellen requested that Planning Board contact Martha Glover to see if there are some other recommendations and Lori can put them in contact with new construction program that National Grid offers.
- Recommends that more MEC people come to the next meeting on March 23rd 7:45pm
- Suggestion to make general recommendations to a variety of boards about Net Zero expectations.
- Create letter to Planning Board: Sunil Jennine Ellen will write this and have draft for next month's meeting.

In view of upcoming building to take place, makes net zero zoning even more important.

Earth Day (Lisa)

- Boston: Rally on April 18th for the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day.
 - We might want to sponsor this. No cost. Dave Bliss will send sponsor information to Alanna
- Melrose: Lisa is in conversation with the UU Church (Green Sanctuary group), the Melrose Library and the Net Zero Waste team. We may want to have UU Church and/or Library set up a presentation (movie or lecture) where MEC can have table and join in sponsorship. She will have more information latter.
- Note: on April 11th, Temple Beth Shalom will be having a having Earth Day event.

CEA (Alanna)

- Jennine and Cassandra was at last Melrose Farmer's market to encourage sign up for 100% alternative electric energy program. Found that a lot education was needed.

- Martha and Alanna will meet with consultants to discuss message in educational kiosk message.

Email content strategy (Alanna)

- Alanna set up Mail Chimp. Currently we 847 people on our mailing list. This may be opportunity to contact and educate people about electric bill options. May want to put in monthly Newsletter.
- Call for volunteers to contribute content for newsletter.

Local Environmental Action March 7 (Alanna)

- We have two tickets to this. This is state meeting and good opportunity to meet people from all over the state.
- *Motion to offer tickets to high school environmental group. – So approved.*

HeatSmart (Susan Murphy)

- Air source heat pump, ground heat pump, solar power lecture 3/26/2020. Sunil Martha and Sunil will attend.
- We applied and obtained grant to provide programs by Massachusetts Clean Energy Center.
 - Will look put out RFP to identify installers and will have meeting with them.
 - Wednesday March 25th we will have Introduction to clean technology workshop. Work on name for this. Also working on promotion. Susan will send description to Howie for future press release.
 - Other places to promote: “Melrose Melrose” facebook live, Eastern Bank, Melrose Credit Union and MetroWest Bank.

Healthy Melrose: May 9th (Alanna)

- Want to promote HeatSmart with a separate table close to MEC table
- EV showcase to be headed by Bernard and Jay
- Looking for person to head our presentation

Net Zero Planning (Martha)

- Still develop working on Greenhouse gas inventory.
- Has a draft of a Community Survey that will be used to be used for community awareness
 - (communication held off due to Mayor’s communication plan still developing)
- MAPC is putting together playbook which concentrates on building, transportation and two other areas
 - March 17th they will talk about the suggested playbook
 - Will have monthly meetings with larger MAPC group and communicate more information
- There are a lot of moving parts to new job and job has been expanded:
 - MEC Programs: HeatSmart program and aggregation (electricity)
 - We have new Green Community Grant monies; this is Melrose’s 5th Green Community Grant.
 - Four schools been the focus of much of this funding
 - Lots of conversion from oil to gas.
 - Putting in new Beebe boiler
 - Insulation (air sealing) LED lighting at Roosevelt
 - look at city sustainability vulnerability.
 - Flooding in city hall parking lot.
 - Being asked to talk to other departments because this work is connected to what they are doing

Solar Subcommittee update (Jeff)

- Wrapping up two projects:
 - Green street Baptist
 - Melrose Highland Church, now happy with system now that this is up. (standalone meter is greater challenge)
 - Highland Church will get Green Building Award. March 8th 11:15 in ceremony

- Are not going to pursue further large building projects.
 - Lots of commercial buildings have little incentive to change
 - Many churches and structures that house other non-profit organizations have installed energy savings.

"Energy Efficiency and Your Old Home" Wrap Up (Alanna)

- This was well attended and we have had good feedback.
- There was a lot of follow up with Window Woman
- Discussion:
 - Embodied energy - use older buildings to reduce carbon footprints.
 - There is no demo delay legislation in Melrose. Ward Hamilton has talking point. May propose demo delay legislation. Historic Commission is doing inventory.
- Alanna will put summary of lecture observations on MEC website.

Other Announcements:

- March 9th 7:30 UU Church 70 West Emerson: Lecture by Julian Agyeman PHd: Just Sustainability Professor of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning at Tufts
- February 29th: This Saturday Temple Beth Shalom 5:00pm – environmental sharing and Social Justice

Motion to adjourn. So approved: 9: 03 pm

Upcoming 2020 MEC Meetings

March 28, April 25, May 23

June 27, July 25, August (tbd) Meeting, September 26, October 24

November 21 (room tbd), NO DECEMBER Meeting

Cassidy Conference Room (unless noted)