



MELROSE ENERGY COMMISSION Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: Thursday, October 22, 2020 7:15 pm

Location: Internet

Attendees: Susan Baron, David Bliss, Ellen Katz, Cassandra Koutalidis, Gary Lamothe, Ian Moriarty, Susan Murphy, Sunil Sanis, Lori Timmerman

Presiding: Sunil Sainis and Gary LaMothe

Secretary: Susan Baron

Welcome and introductions

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve September meeting minutes with change to clarify API wording by Ellen Katz: Gary Lamothe: seconded. Motion passed unanimously. September meeting minutes approved.

MEC Communications: Sunil Sainis

Energy Sage reached out to see if we wanted to change landing page for their pages. Currently the MEC pages direct users to solar installation. However, there is also an option, if one does not have the house setup to install solar panels, to purchase power coming from a solar source.

- Messaging needs to be thought out so as to not confuse users.
- On the MEC site we will change page to explain difference between choices of solar energy options.
- We will wait to see what Energy Sage pages look like before we change links on the MEC website.

Zoning District and Related Parking Regulation Amendments: Ellen Katz

Zoning subcommittee proposed amendment concerning commercial areas; if a variance is requested, they must offer something of community benefit to obtain variance. Susan Murphy and Ellen Katz submitted suggested text that is ecofriendly. Subcommittee is submitting a draft on Monday. If it is adapted by Planning Board, it goes to City Council.

In upcoming year MEC should be supporting zoning changes.

Building Electrification Accelerator: Ellen Katz

Martha, Ellen and Emma Schnur Battaglia (Senior Planner, Office of Planning and Community Development) are attending seminars sponsored by Rocky Mountain Institute. This is to provide guidance to establish best approach for Melrose. Still a work in progress.

Can reach out to Ellen or Martha if you wish to attend one of these seminars.

HeatSmart Initiative: Susan Murphy

- Going well with several hundred leads and contracts. Signup deadline is November 15th.
- HeatSmart signs have been moved. The two ground source projects that have been purchased have started. There might be a third contract.
- Lori is going to get a newsletter article out.
- Susan Murphy is doing Zoom Hot Water session to answer questions about program on 10/23/2020

- Susan would like to put out doorhangers and will let us know if she needs assistance.
- First Congo church will be going with Solar hot water.
- Talking about newsletter – article on promoting weatherization incentives, but 100% program ended. Still want to promote weatherization and also HeatSmart program.
 - 343 leads and 90 contracts candidates

Scope of Work Statement for SM hire: Sunil Sainis

We are looking to hire someone to manage Social Media as a scaled back project for an internship. Gary will be looking into this.

Melrose Community Power editorial sent by Cassandra to Melrose paper. Letter to Editor
Can put this in MEC site and blog

Link to join MEC: https://melroseenergy.org/take-action/#join_mec

Letter to the Future: David Bliss

Working on this.

NetZero Survey: Sunil Sainis

Results came back from survey, but not clear if MEC is supposed to analyze the results or MAPC is. Python based Natural Language Toolkit can be used to analyze data. Can help MAPC intern figure that out if needed.

Hot Water Heater at Congregational Home: Sunil Sainis

Ward Hamilton let us know that one of the Congregational Homes is having roof redone. What MEC can do to get Solar Hot water on one of Congregational Homes. Who will do outreach? Big Roof Solar Sunil Sainis, Lori Timmerman, Susan Murphy, Allena
Sunil will arrange meeting. Need to find out if they have a central hot water system.
Susan Murphy will reach out to Ward.

MEC Focus 2020-2021: Gary Lamothe

Gary will send out email about what we want MEC focus to be in upcoming year to focus resources.

8:37 Adjourn - Next Meeting Thursday, November 19, 7:15 pm