



MELROSE ENERGY COMMISSION Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 28 2018, 7:25- 8:06 p.m.

Cassidy Conference Room, Melrose City Hall

Attendees: Tyler Ballew, Susan Baron, June Cuttino, Doug Dick, Jeff Doody, Rodney Dowell, Martha Grover, Gary Lamothe, Susan Murphy, Alanna Nelson, Lori Timmerman,

Secretary: Susan Baron

Intern: Ari Faro

1. Welcome and introductions (Chair Pro Tem: Tyler)

2. Approve May 24, 2018 meeting minutes – so approved

3. Energy Manager Update (Martha)

- Stood in for Mayor for autonomous vehicle event. Melrose is now on list for testing.
- Attended Techogrid meeting in Worcester representing Melrose mini grid project. Several towns and groups are participating in addition to Melrose.
- Municipal vulnerability project complete. Identified issues and natural hazard mitigation planning will take place.
- Working to update energy office on City Website
- Working with an intern who is building dashboard about energy usage pulling information from different sources.
- Green Aggregation project – need our meeting minutes for May and June.
- Solar canopy project – Net metering cap is being met and is a gating factor
- Will meet with teacher who is head of STEM in high school.
 - Note: GEM (global education in Melrose) some students did environmental projects.
 - Would like to have students participate in various energy savings projects
- Attended MAPC meetings: Thinking of aggregating effort through several cities to do tree planting and then sell carbon offsets.
 - This revenue can be used to plant more trees.
 - Can take advantage of outside tree expertise that the individual cities cannot afford.
- Would like to send letter in support of energy bill passage

4. Solar Subcommittee update (Lori and Jeff)

- Solar for non-profits: Currently supporting solar at the Highland Congregation Church by discussions with finance committee and congregants. Highland CC will be going forward with this project based on costs.
 - Resident Energy will be presenting plans for this.
 - Gary and Martha will participate in vendor selection process.
- Kool congregations Program: Way of getting project recognized. Want congregations to talk about carbon reduction
- Resident Energy RE has solar access program. You can have solar installed to benefit low income household. Looking for non-profit organization roofs interested in this project.
- There are two projects blocked by legislative limits connected to Net Metering cap.
 - Will want to let legislators know about this limitation.
- Solar energy roofs identified – Solar access model want to be extended – 4 buildings identified
- July 11th solar subcommittee meeting 7:30 at Lori's

5. Sustainability Conferences Recap (Lori and Gary)

Went to several conferences.

- June 12 – Fronghopper CSC is running a series of conferences. This one focused on Grid modernization. Driving energy efficiency Governor has mandate to have scorecard listing energy efficiency of home for 2020.
 - When you have scorecard, people invest in more efficiency after their energy audits
 - City of Boston representative did study of two JP housing developments: one was a four unit condo using High Efficiency technology. The other seven unit condo used only base code. The High EE ones sold but not all the 7 sold. Use as example of consumer preference
 - Would like MassSave to start using this scorecard
- Transportation Conference: DOT approach – transportation- going in direction of Mass transit
- MCAN and Sierra Club round table – great workshop round table
- Participant discussed Passive House
 - MEC may want to have him give presentation
 - There is no tool kit for retrofit for passive home
 - May want to explore way forward for retrofit -energy package
- Discussion on Municipal code evaluation: base code like stretch code – where next?
- July 12th: another MEC meeting – daytime meeting Martha and Ellen will try go

6. Legislative Update (David or Alana)

- Large omnibus energy bill now going through House (went through Senate)
- Six big picture items in bill including
 - Takes off Net metering caps.
 - Energy storage –
 - large wind farms
 - Carbon Tax
- House will now review
- MAPC Legislative bill analysis distributed
- Environmental Bond bill proposed by Governor – a lot of items being added to this for future funding. The one from 5 years ago is expiring. h4613– passed House and going to Senate.
- Lori and Alanna will write Jason Lewis a letter concerning MEC top priorities: Net Metering caps removed and RPS. Will get approval electronically for a July 15th submission

7. Miscellaneous:

- *MCAN is hoping for Melrose representation at the [USGBC Zero Net Energy Building Municipal Roundtable](#), July 12 1:00-3:00 PM.
- *MEC Summer Gathering?
- *Promoting the plastic bag ordinance going into effect starting July 1.

8. Plans for MEC in FY19, committee leadership, overall direction.

- Have fall meeting of surrounding towns. This would be both social and educational.
- Will look to contact Winchester, Stoneham, Wakefield
- Martha discussed that we might look into formalize: Mayor expressed concern that there is no chair.

- Will set agenda and goals for next year
- At MAPC metro mayor’s task force meeting – presented RONDA (Resilience Home on Design Aid) Martha discussed RONDA presentation: Dr. Michelle Laboy to present to MEC in October.
 - Deep energy retrofit - School of architecture at Northeastern Dr. Laboy and David Fanon

9. Transportation: (Rodney Dowell)

- More EV program used for rebates – they are having hard time keeping this funded.
- Liquid Air and Toyota Fuel cell car -want to introduce this more in Mass – have in California
- Seen Lime bikes out and about. Lime bikes want to move to scooters.
- May want to invite Lime Bike representative to talk at MEC
- AV – 2 reports released. Reports suggest AV - congestion will increase. Unless we develop rules, will have congestion issue

10. Chair and agenda for next MEC meeting: Thursday, July 26 – No chair for the next meeting

Future events of interest:

- June 30 – Melrose Recycling Event: Hazardous Waste Day; Partnering with Stoneham

Upcoming 2018 MEC Meetings

4th Thursday of the month at 7:15 pm
 July 26, NO AUGUST Meeting, September 27, October 25, November 15,
 NO DECEMBER Meeting
 City Hall, Cassidy Conference Room (except November meeting which is TBD)