

Meeting held at Cassidy Conference Room, City Hall @ 7:15pm

Attending:

Doug Dick (scribe)
Sunil Sainis (visitor, wants to be on email list)
Barbara Simko
Gary Lamothe
Lori Timmermann
Marcel Rodgers (guest from Resonant Energy)
Maddie Barr (guest from Resonant Energy)
Ellen Katz
Jeff Doody
Kristi Heiman
Tyler Ballew
Jack Norcross (visitor)
Doug Harriott
Lisa Trimble

Minutes:

Energy Manager Report:

Victorian Fair:

- National Drive Electric Week EV showcase was a big success
- Homeworks was there signing up for energy audits
- MEC needs a new banner sign (more durable)

Downtown Melrose Community Microgrid (CMG):

- Kickoff meeting held recently with engineers B2Q, National Grid, Shaw's, & City. CMG to include city hall, Shaw's, memorial hall, central fire in a micro-electric grid to have solar, storage and generator so these critical services can be up and running in emergencies plus other benefits.

Green Community Grants:

- Finishing up Lincoln Controls Upgrade for 2017 GC grant
- Collecting proposals for potential 2019 GC Grant projects including boiler replacements at Beebe, Ripley, Hoover, Franklin schools and LED upgrades for schools (cheaper cost and lower electrical use than 2 years ago)

Community Electricity Aggregation Program:

- Melrose has had their DPU hearing
- DPU is taking 8 months to approve aggregation plans, but Melrose may be able to accelerate that because of past experience

- It is generally best to put out aggregation bids in winter when rates spike.
- This summer had a number of peak electrical days when the city shed loads (got rebates for doing this).

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Priorities

- Seeking generator grant FEMA/MEMA
- Seeking funding from MAPC for other nature-based solutions for climate resilience (ie culvert dredging)

Approval of June MEC Meeting:

- Approval was continued to October meeting.

Solar Subcommittee:

- Big Roof Solar Project: putting solar on commercial roofs which will help them save \$\$ and perhaps overproduce. This over could be sold to neighbors.
- Resonant Energy is working with MEC to help finance systems and facilitate the installation for commercial properties (agreements, structural issues, insurance)
- Community solar projects find “subscribers” to buy a % of the amount of electricity over produced by a “Big Roof Solar Project”. Resonant has an initial project happening currently with the Highlands Congregational Church.
- The Solar Subcommittee presented the “Big Roof Solar Project” in an informational meeting to the alderman on 9-28-18. The
- Lori proposed that the November MEC meeting at the Milano Center to be both a celebration and official kick-off for the “Big Roof Solar Project” on November 17th at 7:15pm. Motion was carried.
- After the November program kick-off, letters will go out to businesses/building owners (40) who are candidates for the “Big Roof Solar Project”.

Net Zero Energy Building Subcommittee:

- The Fire station/Public Safety Building projects are on hold during the Override process.
- The Library Renovation Project should be on the list of potential Net Zero Energy building.
- Potentially have workshops for homeowners and builders about Net zero energy homes or Deep Energy Retrofits. Perhaps do a similar workshop as the Deep Energy Workshop.

Other MEC Committees:

- **Transportation Committee**
- **Energy Efficiency Committee** (currently folded into the Net Zero Energy Building Committee)
- **Wind Energy Committee**
- Potential new committee: **Advocacy and Outreach/Networking** (Kristi Heiman and Kristi Heiman would like to be on the committee). The committee would meet each year with the state senator and representative and the alderman). Perhaps the committee could be in charge of meeting with neighboring communities.

Plans for MEC in 2019:

- Shall MEC have Co-Chairs for 2019 or do we continue with monthly Chairs. The October meeting agenda will include discussion of how to chair the commission in the next year. It was noted that the Mayor would like the Commission to have a chair.
- Lori has volunteered to create the agenda each month. Members are responsible for getting Lori the agenda items with all critical information.
- Start an Advocacy/Outreach and Networking Committee.
- Connect with the newly reinvigorated High School Environmental Club (Suzanne Troy, a high school science teacher is working to organize the Club and contacted Martha Grover about possibilities to collaborate with the Melrose Energy Commission or Sustainable Melrose).
- Create a presentation series for homeowners with topics such as: Net Zero Energy Homes, Deep Energy Retrofits, Geo-thermal heating/cooling, etc.
- Research community Geo-thermal systems?
- Get behind the "Big Roof Solar Project"
- Work with Sustainable Melrose
- Work with Melrose's Community Resiliency Effort (Martha Grover's ongoing efforts)
- Work with buildings that have solar panels to have a "dash board" that displays solar activities on the buildings
- Create group or find person that would be willing to update the website (webmaster position)
- Reinvigorate the "Kill-o-Watt" project to encourage energy efficiency at the Library.
- Continue to update the Greenhouse Gas Inventory (based on the original inventory that Susan Murphy created). It would be good to have a graphic version of this on our website.
- Create a Climate Action Plan (involving community input, professional review etc.)
- Decide what action(s) that the alderman might get behind....the alderman have asked what they could do to support the "Big Roof Solar Project". They might also be interested in supporting other projects as well.
- How do the goals of MEC get embedded into public policy and the public mindset?

Announcements:

- Bill McKibben is speaking at Tufts University on October 30th

Next Meetings: October 25, 7:15pm at the Cassidy Conference Room in City Hall; November 15, 7:15pm at the Milano Center