

MELROSE ENERGY COMMISSION Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 25, 2018 7:15

Cassidy Conference Room, Melrose City Hall

Attendees: Susan Baron, David Bliss, Doug Dick, Jeff Doody, Rodney Dowell, Martha Grover, Doug Harriott, Kristie Heiman, Gary Lamothe, Sunil Sainis, Barbara Simko, Lori Timmerman, Lisa Trimble

Secretary: Susan Baron

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Solar Access Program Presentation (Phone Call)

- Natasha from Solar Access located in North Hampton MA discussed Solar Access
- Solar Access is a State sponsored pilot program designed to assist middle income home owners in purchasing solar panels and heat pumps.
 - Assistance offerings includes energy coaches to guide people through a complicated process. Provide both financial and installation guidance
 - Solar Access have vetted vendors: Sun Bug and HVAC installer Gerrard
 - Goal is to make home owners 'cash positive'
 - To see qualifications for this, check web site. Middle income is determined by family size and income range. Cetonline.org/solaraccess
- Would like MEC to advocate for this program in Melrose
 - Need to set realistic goals for Melrose
 - Solar Access have written press releases and marketing materials
 - The pilot runs from this summer 2018 to summer of 2020
- Martha, Lori and Jeff will discuss how to approach promotion of this program in Melrose

3. Geothermal Energy Special Interest Group (Sunil)

- Sunil would like to set up group to investigate ground source heat pump to promote educating about this source with a view to making this an option in Melrose
- Will work on assembling presentation for an upcoming meeting
- Would like information about what other communities have done – vendor may have this information
- David Bliss will work with Sunil

4. Solar Subcommittee update (Jeff)

- November 6 at 6:30 is Big Roof Solar kickoff event - Knights of Columbus
- Nov. 7th Solar subcommittee meeting- 7:30 at first Congregational Church
- If Solar committed can sign 250 larger users, Boston Solar may award bonus of \$36,000
- Will discuss possible uses for this in other meeting.
- Heard from YMCA – but they are working on getting roof fixed
 - May want to use funding for YMCA roof seed monies.
- Will contact assisted living
- Other programs – clergy association in November meeting, Chamber and Rotary
- May want to put lawn signs and later plaques to promote solar

5. MEC Governance and election discussion (Tyler)

Chair- Vice Chair

Or Two Co- chairs meeting and Kristi – and another co-chair

Secretary -
Finance –
Public Relations- Lisa Trimble may be interested in this post

6. Plans for MEC in FY19

- Finance committee- Tyler will review budget
 - We have \$2500 from the city- needs to answer to the alder-people
- Note: Melrose – Natick and Lexington still waiting on technical assistance grant
- In last meeting, talked about the need for a Climate Action Plan for Melrose
 - May want to look at MEC partnering with college student to research climate change planning for Melrose. Note: Medford teams with members of Tufts- organic waste programs
 - In order to move towards 2030 climate goal, must have plan. Suggested identify 10 areas to concentrate on.
 - MCAN – Lori will go to a focus group – how can they help communities- will be bringing up how to develop ‘roadmap’. Would like to have saved monies develop climate action plan
 - Want to look into working with other communities. Lori will send invite to other communities
 - EEA-state level is where community grant comes from.
 - May want to invite Lexington group to speak on their climate action plan
 - Mark Sandeen from Lexington –January meeting
 - Rodney will head subcommittee to gathering information on other local climate action plans – Doug Harriott and Sunil Sainis will be part of this committee.

7. **Public safety building letter:** This will be redrafted and sent to Mayor Infura by building committee

8. **Chair and agenda for next MEC meeting:** Thursday, Nov 15, Milano Center.

- This will be a regular MEC meeting as the Big Roof Solar Kickoff that was previously scheduled for this date is now targeted for Dec 6 at Knights of Columbus, 6:30pm-8pm.

Future events of interest:

- October 30: Bill McKibben speaking at Tufts
- November 10: Hazardous Waste Day Melrose
- December 6: Big Roof Solar Kickoff Event, 6:30pm-8pm, Knights of Columbus, Melrose

Upcoming 2018 MEC Meetings
November 15, NO DECEMBER Meeting
November meeting Milano Center