

MELROSE ENERGY COMMISSION Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 15, 2018 7:15

Milano Center, 201 W. Foster, 3rd Floor

Attendees: Tyler Ballew, Susan Baron, David Bliss, Rodney Dowell, Martha Grover, Kristie Heiman, Ellen Katz, Gary Lamothe, Alanna Nelson, Sunil Sainis, Barbara Simko, Lori Timmerman, Lisa Trimble

Secretary: Susan Baron

Welcome and introductions

1. Approve September and October meeting minutes

September Minutes – move to approve; so approved

October Minutes – move to approve; so approved

2. MEC Governance and Elections

Nominated and approved:

- Co-Chairs: Kristi Heiman and Allana Nelson
- Secretary: Susan Baron
- Public Relations: to be determined

Howie Newman will write press releases

Lori volunteered to assist with agendas

3. Advocacy Update (Lisa)

Met with Kristie

- Focus on state legislation
- Map other groups in surrounding municipalities for collaboration purposes
- Work collectively to create real climate action plan with other groups
- Start to plan for opportunities to advocate: for example, energy efficiency should be a campaign issue in next mayoral election

4. MCAN Net Zero Stretch Code Campaign (Ellen and David B)

- The Public safety building Net Zero letter not yet sent to the Mayor.
- MCAN is promoting new stretch code (net zero)
 - David signed MCAN letter as part of MEC support of new code that will be sent to BBRS (Board of Building Regulation and Standards- state level)
 - In order to get buy in by stakeholders, MEC will try to create educational event.
 - Invite MCAN to speak in January or February.
- Motion to invite MCAN to speak about proposed changes to stretch code and invite city official including building inspector and public –so approved.
 - David will contact MCAN

5. MCAN Focus Group (Kristi)

- Kristi attended Saturday meeting with MCAN and 14 chapters in greater Boston area. MCAN is looking to see how they can help the chapters.
 - Educate public
 - Obtain more members
 - Brainstorming about ideas for future
 - Best practice to advocate and other directions
 - Next action steps suggested for MCAN

6. Geothermal Energy Special Interest Group (Sunil and David B)

- Meeting with Heather and Paul- found out Well do not need permitting. Only electrical would need permitting
- Constructed questionnaire.

- Plan to talk to homeowners and obtain information on their experiences. Have three identified.
- Plan to talk to contractors
- Maybe this information can be turned into news article

7. Solar Subcommittee update (Lori)

- Big Roof Solar Kickoff Event, 6:30pm-8:30pm, Knights of Columbus, Melrose
 - Did outreach to organizations with large roofs and other groups
 - Invite groups that put out newsletters
 - Email Lori if you have suggestion about others to invite

8. Lime Bikes (Alanna)

- Alanna tried Lime Bike and had article in the Patch called Ten days with Lime Bike
 - <https://patch.com/massachusetts/melrose/ten-days-lime-bike>
 - Discussed that the appearance of these had mixed reviews
- Sunil will be looking at Peble and will write about this on MEC Blog

9. Climate Action Plan Brainstorm (Lisa)

- Lisa would like to do a brainstorm to start putting together a plan for scope and direction
 - What is a Climate action Plan?
 - What are available resources and What are barriers
 - Look at IPCC (international Panel for Climate Change) published standards
- Want to determine focus so as not become overwhelmed. Major uses of energy: Transportation
- Home Heating, Diet
- EEA announced grants for sustainability planning. Melrose, Arlington and Natick part of grant that has been approved. MAPC will provide guidance and plan development
 - Martha, Sunil and Rodney would like direction for planning use of funding
 - Martha will circulate application
 - Ellen would like to see guidance on net zero public buildings
 - Lori would like us to focus on residential and transportation issues
 - May want to do community outreach to listen to stakeholder’s priorities. Will need buy in from community.

- Note: Martha remarked that until the over ride is passed, or not, the City government will not focus on anything else.
- This presents an opportunity to establish our stand so that, after the April vote, MEC will be ready to address officials

Future events of interest:

- December 6: Big Roof Solar Kickoff Event, 6:30pm-8:30pm, Knights of Columbus, Melrose
- MEC meeting: Thursday, January 24, Cassidy Conf Room, City Hall.
- Have we invited Mark Sandeen from Lexington?

Upcoming 2019 MEC Meetings

January 24, February 28, March 28, April 25, May 23
 June 27, July 25, NO AUGUST Meeting, September 26, October 24
 November 21 (room tbd), NO DECEMBER Meeting
 Cassidy Conference Room (unless noted)