

## **MELROSE ENERGY COMMISSION Meeting Minutes October 24, 2019**

### **MELROSE ENERGY COMMISSION Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, October 24, 2019 7:16 pm

**Cassidy Conference Room, City Hall**

**Attendees:** Susan Baron, Jeff Doody, Kristie Heiman, Gary Lamothe, Alanna Nelson, Sunil Sainis, Martha Grover, Ellen Katz Barbara Simko Rodney Dowell, David Bliss, Lisa Trimble

**Guest:** John N. Tramontozzi

**Secretary:** Susan Baron

### **Welcome and introductions**

Meeting Minutes: **Motion to approve September 2019 meeting minutes with small corrections.** So, moved

### **Climate Action Planning Sub-Committee** Rodney Dowell

- Had kick off meeting and established time line for year in order to create an action plan submission
- Two upcoming events
  - November 8<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am to 11:30am at consultant offices training sessions to learn about greenhouse gas inventory tool
  - November 15<sup>th</sup> Focus Group Facilitation training. This is going to help with outreach and education
- Discussion: Public Safety Facility building projects will need to be driven by new DPW director when they are hired.
- Stressed need to show up at public meetings about building plans to advocate energy efficiency.
  - Note: Matt Roman submitted MMTV building plan that includes green building features. Lori will send him National Grid technical help contact for making buildings more energy efficient.

### **Action Items for 2020**

List of possible action items to be discussed and prioritized

- Participating in DPW director hiring processing
- Green building – Education for planning/zoning board. Educate ourselves on process.
  - Invite Denise/ Emma to review building permitting process
- Develop and advocate for Green Building Development Energy Checklist for building approval.
  - (See example of City of Durham NH checklist)
- How do we become part of the fabric of decision making?
  - Advocate for MEC/Sustainable Melrose members to be part of decision-making process
  - Advocate for MEC/green building representative on all Building Committees.
  - Establish quarterly meeting with Mayor and City leadership with MEC
- Relationship building with MBTA – would like to encourage fleet with lower emission- RTA variant?
- MAPC autonomous vehicles group Coordination
- Climate Challenge
- Heat Smart - Susan Murphy is developing application to this program need to apply for this program by November 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Sunil may be interested in this and Lori will be looking at application

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- Community Green Electricity Program Promotion
- Green development checklist
- Newcomer Outreach: Do we have welcome packet that talks about checking energy? Can Chamber of Commerce include something in their package?
- Set up fund to assist people in transition to lower carbon footprint. Seeded by local – private & city)
- Keep connection to high school sustainability group.
- Maximize use of website and post meeting minutes at that site
- Maximize education on WordPress

### **Nominations for MEC Co-Chair for 2019-2020**

Election will be at November 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Please submit nominations by November 15

Current Nominations:

Co-Chair: Sunil and Alanna

Secretary: Susan Baron. However, would like to share this office

Communication Coordinator: Howie has been doing press releases, but will need to do more communication. Lisa may be interested at some time

### **Solar Subcommittee Update** Jeff Doody

- Melrose Highland Church has solar going and is currently selling energy
- Green Street and First Street Baptist is in process of pulling permits.
- Two groups that may be interested. - Cedar Crossing Condos and – Masonic temple
- VFW also expressed interest
- Melrose Housing committee. Jeff met with them. Any changes need to go through extended process.

### **Melrose Towers Update** Martha Grover

- Tonight, is the Melrose Towers condo association meeting
- Rise Engineering has proposed fixes for common areas – Also will be offering air heat pump at 50% of the cost. Here is where MEC may help with ‘branding’ and promotion

### **Propose Presentation by Historic New England on Energy Retrofit for Historic Homes** - Alanna

- Allana reached out to them to find out if they had a presentation about retrofitting older homes.
  - They do and a speaker can be available January 30<sup>rd</sup> for \$200.00
  - **Motion to use \$200 for a speaker from HNE presentation** – so moved.
  - Will want to invite organizations in Melrose with historic buildings as well as invite general public
  - Lori will Look into Tierney Hall at Milano Center when she books next monthly meeting.

### **Future Meeting Invitation Ideas**

- Workshop for local advocacy (Paul Ormond) part of Net Zero
- Mass development – C-PACE – we could invite them to present program.
- Invite Denise Gaffey / Emma Schnur to explain the building permitting process

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### **International Building Code Election Update**

MCAN has been advocating for the for the International building organization to stretch code be Net Zero. *“Governor Baker's Board of Buildings Regulations and Standards (BBRS) took a big step backwards, by deciding to remove green buildings experts from the committee tasked with developing a Net Zero stretch code, and replacing them with contractors.”* (Quote from MCAN email 10/17/2019 email)

Attend November 5<sup>th</sup> [BBRS meeting](#)

Send [letter](#) to Governor and Chair of BBRS

Send email to Jim and Margery 's Boston Public Radio show about this. Website:

<https://www.wgbh.org/news/boston-public-radio> email: [BPR@wgbh.org](mailto:BPR@wgbh.org)

The have a “Ask the Governor’ segment every month.

Other items:

PTO move for Melrose Community Electricity Choice Program – Need to get page to go into PTO to push on Facebook page.

Sunil will put this on community group page.

Next MEC meeting: Thursday, November 21 Milano

### **Motion to adjourn – So moved 9:02**

Find more information about the Melrose Energy Commission at [www.melroseenergy.org](http://www.melroseenergy.org).