

MELROSE ENERGY COMMISSION Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: Thursday, June 25, 2020 7:15 pm

Location: Zoom

Attendees: Tyler Ballew, Susan Baron, Andrea Bates, David Bliss, June Cuttino, Doug Dick, Martha Grover, Kristi Heinman, Ellen Katz, Cassandra Koutalidis, Gary LaMothe, Ian Moriarty, Alanna Nelson, Sunil Sainis, Elaina Rivais, Lori Timmerman, Janine Venuti

Presiding: Alanna Nelson and Sunil Sainis **Secretary:** Susan Baron

Welcome and Introductions

Approve minutes of May Meeting Minutes: Move to approve May Meeting Minutes – So Moved

Elect of New Co-Chair (Sunil/Alanna)

- Need to elect new Co-Chair for July and August.
- Note: In September the standard MEC election will take place.
- Nominated: Gary LaMothe as new Co-Chair

MEC Commission voted for Gary LaMothe as new Co-Chair: Yes - unanimous vote

Vote for New Members (Sunil)

Cassandra Koutalidis – was voted in last year sometime

MEC Commission voted offering membership to Ian Moriarty and Andrea Bates: Yes - unanimous vote

Spending MEC Funds

- June 31 is end of fiscal year. Martha proposed using funds for software and signage that will have multiyear use. (Canva subscription, an aggregation opt up banner for Main Street (about \$600) and 50 lawn signs (about \$500) which can be used for a few years)
 - Good Energy created graphics. These have been developed in conjunction with the Mayor.
 - This promotes Melrose Community Power. Melrose had this program for a long time, but we have not formalized branding
 - We are also trying out a new website: mcp.cityofmelrose.org
 - In discussion also
 - Suggested door hangers,
 - Suggested making contrast website name - in black
 - Suggested Magnets or Stickers

Move to spend remaining MEC funds on Canva software, lawn signs and posters: unanimous Yes - So Moved.

Legislative update from the 6/17 meeting with Jason and Kate (Sunil)

- Had discussion with Representative Lipper-Garabedian and Senator Lewis about what is going to happen to climate bills currently proposed.
 - Corona virus has dominated their attention and there is a looming budget shortfall due to pandemic.
 - Many of these bills are still in Ways and Means Committee. Senator Lewis said bills should be reported out of committee in coming weeks, but any enactment will be contingent on revenue.

Sustainability Manager Update (Martha)

- *NZ Planning*
 - Gone through 3 of 4 strategies.
 - Will people be able to meet Monday to review last strategy. Martha will schedule.
- *CEA re-launch, name, logo, website URL, etc*
 - See notes above about MEC purchase of new items.
 - Gary did Greenhouse Gas inventory training today. Susan Murphy also knows how to use this on line tool.
 - MVP applications submitted 6/18
 - MAPC Melrose and Medford and Malden - submitted grant application for green building guidelines focusing on energy efficacy etc.
 - Started workshops concerning electrification accelerator offered by Green Mountain organization

HeatSmart Update (Susan Murphy/Sunil)

- Interviewed installers for the three technologies. They have selected vendors, and will release names after contracts are signed.
- Want to have contracts signed by next Monday. Will post on HeatSmartMelrose.org website.
- Martha thanks the interviewing committee for their work
- Lori requested that each of us give her the names of five people who can post signs on their lawns
- Susan Murphy will have a “meet the installer” event.

Memorial Hall update (Ellen)

- There are plans to do renovation work on Memorial Hall.
- Ellen and David sent letter to Denise Gaffey from MEC about energy efficiency concerns. They received email that this project is in the very early stages and that Denise will get back to MEC when they are ready to begin design. Denise did confirm that they will incorporate energy efficiency concerns into the design.
- Ellen suggested that we send back thank you and some specific pointers for text for architect contract. Lori has some questions to be asked. David and Ellen will work on some language for response email.

National Grid Charging Demo (Lori)

- We are trying to get a charging demo that will allow electric vehicles to charge on light poles.
- Lori narrowed these 10 places that were presented to traffic commission. There is follow up meetings with residents.

- Not yet well received yet. Lori's goal is to establish ten stations.
- Lori will get map of current stations out.
- Alanna suggested EV education
- Martha had a question generated by a letter to city solicitor – are chargers considered utility or business? Cannot put utility in residential neighborhood. Ellen will look into Cambridge practice.

MEC Content Strategy for July (Alanna)

- Put together twitter and Facebook thanks to Ian.
- People who are interested about content should get this on our social media.
- David and Ian will work on MEC site, but who can share this responsibility.
- Will have meeting to start transferring ownership

Changing the MEC twitter handle (Ian)

Melroseenergy is our handle.

Award!

Marth Grover has earned award from SEBANE, the Solar Energy Business Administration for New England, for her work over the years in support of solar in Melrose. Martha attended the virtual award ceremony. Yeah Martha!

Move to adjourn meeting at 8:47pm- So Moved

July 23rd is next meeting