

MELROSE ENERGY COMMISSION Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: Thursday, May 28, 2020 7:15 pm

Location: Zoom

Attendees: Susan Baron, , David Bliss, June Cuttino, Martha Grover, Ellen Katz, Cassandra Koutalidis, Gary LaMothe, Ian Moriarty, Susan Murphy, Alanna Nelson, Sunil Sainis, Lori Timmerman, Lisa Trimble, Janine Venuti

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

Welcome and introductions

Approve April meeting minutes: *Move to approve April Meeting Minutes – so moved*

HeatSmart Virtual Kickoff (Susan/Sunil)

- Presentation on May 19th was well attended: 38 participants
- Vendors:
 - Starting June 8th, they will be selecting vendors for this program and looking for assistance in vetting vendors
 - Should have vendor selection done by the end of June.
- Advertising the HeatSmart Program
 - Lawn Signs going up and want to put more up
 - Will be putting articles on blog
 - Will do door hangers for people who have oil heat.
 - Looking for volunteers
 - Talked about virtual meet and greet.
- Support needed at this stage: Request following Facebook page

Communications & Outreach (Alanna)

- Laurel got Mailchimp communication going
- Sunil posted a Facebook and Twitter account and is starting to post content
 - <https://www.facebook.com/events/180319513338305/>
- Will be summarizing our work in the last year and send email out to the 1,300 people on our mailing list
 - Ask for people to host HeatSmart lawn signs in this email.
 - This summary can also be used for City Council budget meeting
- Ian will help with website; others will contribute to blog.

Insulation Offer

- HomeWorks said that MassSave insulation is now being supported at 100%. However, this is time sensitive – must contact them before May 31st.
- Sunil can put a Boost Post for \$40.00 on Facebook. Money authorized.
- Also, will post on Melrose Community Page

MEC Education about “Why Electric” (Gary Lamothe)

- The HeatSmart program is about smart heating and cooling using electricity as energy source. But people may be unclear and unsure about why this switch is needed.
- Recommend we develop educational messaging: Why is going electric important?
 - What are the bugaboos from past technologies that have been corrected?
 - How does this dovetail with COVID in this time of massive change?
- This can be used if we visit other civic organizations (Rotary and Chamber of Commerce, PTO)
- Alanna will send out invitation to have chat about this.

Net Zero Planning (Martha)

- Had discussion on May 12th with Brooks from MAPC about Net Zero strategy review criteria.
- Will be using our most recently completed GHG Inventory as the context for selecting strategies for Melrose.
- Scheduled two meetings for next week:
 - **Monday, June 1, 7:00 PM -**
BUILDINGS: <https://cityofmelrose.webex.com/cityofmelrose/j.php?MTID=md724db9b94b6704522f41cf2d6830cc9>
 - **Thursday, June 4, 7:00 PM -**
ZONING/PERMITTING: <https://cityofmelrose.webex.com/cityofmelrose/j.php?MTID=m86491bd1dee9fcc7534acd892cd39971>
- Susan Murphy recommended approach of using GHG inventory to guide our direction.
- Do not want a laundry list of items, but a more focused strategy.
- We are pushing out deadlines for strategies due to COVID.
- Let Martha know if you wish to participate.
 - Here's the link to register for next Wednesday's Wayfinding meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-vCcwLzrSY6qM-GIJETXIA
- Martha has Mayor and staff support for promoting electricity aggregation program representation on website and later, water billing. Will be putting up signage in June.
- Martha has proposed a Mayor appointed Sustainable Melrose Commission in order to support and implement the net zero plan and other initiatives. This will bring it in line with other city commissions.

Upcoming Budget Meeting:

- There is a June 3rd City Council Budget Hearing
- Sunil and Alanna will present before the City Council
- Asked people to edit and comment on what they will present

Advocacy

- June 15 State Legislator Meeting (Sunil)
- Jenna McNeil (Zero Waste Committee) and Sunil will talk with Senator Lewis and Representative Lipper-Garabedian on June 15th about legislative opportunities and would like input on this. Will send out email.

Memorial Hall Renovations (Ellen/David)

- Council approved Bond for \$2 million for Memorial Hall, and Ellen wanted to make sure we are not missing energy efficiency opportunities
- David reviewed the posted proposal:
 - This is limited in scope to roof, flashing and masonry, window restoration, repair to front steps
 - Mainly passed to stop leaks into building
 - It referred to work done 20 years ago when an EPDM roof installed.
 - What fails is the seals, not the roof
 - We would be repairing 1 pane window, not installing a multipaned
 - Did not mention roof insulation (but he is limited to information on what was previously done)
- Next steps suggested by report was getting more details.
 - Lori will contact National Grid to ask about assessment
 - Martha will suggest to Denise if Dave Bliss can be put on an advisory/design selection committee earlier in the process. Also coordinate National Grid participation.
 - Ellen and David will draft letter and give to Martha

Alanna has announced she will be moving and leaving Melrose

Move to adjourn 9:00 pm

Next MEC meeting: Thursday, June 25, 2020.