

## **MELROSE ENERGY COMMISSION Meeting Minutes**

**Date/Time:** Thursday, July 23, 2020 7:15 pm

**Location:** Virtual Meeting

**Attendees:** Susan Baron, Andrea Bates David Bliss, Rodney Dowell, Martha Grover, Ellen Katz, Gary LaMothe, Ian Moriarty, Susan Murphy Sunil Sainis, Lori Timmerman

**Presiding:** Sunil Sainis **Secretary:** Susan Baron

### **Welcome and Introductions**

#### **Approve minutes June Meeting Minutes:**

**Motion** to approve June Meeting Minutes – So Moved

#### **HeatSmart Update** (Susan Murphy)

Had “Meet the Installer” meeting on July 22nd

- Thirty attendees
- Will have another such meeting in September as well as doing other outreach
- Contractors have reported a lot of early interest

##### **Marketing:**

- Asked if people received email blast about the Meet the Installer meeting. Several of us did.
- Could not use MailChimp and used Vertical Response. Ian may look into MailChimp
- David Bliss one of the seven contracts done for New England ductless.
  - Installation is scheduled and he may video and pictures for website
- Lori has list of volunteers for placing signs. We have only 40 signs out. May ask to have older sites reposted.
  - Requested help with people to post signs
- Have been using the Adopt a Site location, but they get removed.
  - Martha will contact Bridgit for ownership list so we can get permission to post signs

#### **MEC partnership with home energy assessment company** (Susan Murphy)

- Newton has a partnership with a home assessment group. Through this partnership, more evaluation services are offered.
- HomeWorks has been working with Alanna. MEC has had agreement with them and they have been performing well, but there may be other opportunities.
  - Susan will evaluate Newton agreement. Can prepare for constructing a RFP with more services offered such as blower door test in September or October
  - David will look for list of home contractors on MassSave website.

#### **Social Media Outreach and related help for MEC** (Susan Murphy)

- Susan would like to use monies for HeatSmart Social Media outreach
- Identify person with who we can contract to put a presence out on Social Media
- Our Facebook page does not have a lot of people and our website is not well known

- Do not have a sustainable Melrose page on website and Martha will put this up with a link for this.
- **Motion:** Susan Murphy is authorized to spend \$250 for HeatSmart and \$250 for MEC to purchase social media consultant services.
- Roll Call Vote – 10 yes votes. Motion is unanimously approved.
- Ian will volunteer to contribute information about website.

#### **Update on Memorial Hall Letter and DOE tool (Ellen Katz and David Bliss)**

- David, Gary and Ellen had a meeting to look at DOE tool in regards to Memorial Hall.
  - Note: \$2.3 million has been allocated by the City to repair Memorial Hall. MEC sent letter to let us monitor so that we can confirm energy conservation measures are considered. Bridget said that she would keep us informed.
  - Tool requires more specific information than is usually available, but yields predicted performance improvements yields. You can change inputs to obtain better outputs. This is created for commercial buildings.
  - Memorial Hall is not best candidate for tool evaluation due to variation in building characteristics.
- Results from test is mixed, but the best we can do at this time, since there may not be an energy designer available for the Memorial Hall projects. DOE would give us publicity for using this.
- David thinks this can be used for homes, although that is not original purpose. Also, could be used for apartment buildings.
- Software is available on DOE site.

#### **MCAN Proxy Bylaw Discussion (Ellen Katz)**

- Mass Climate Action Network (MCAN) networks state energy groups. MEC forms one chapter.
- They are updating Bylaws and wish to have chapter approval. They sent new Bylaws summary and need to approve these by August 15<sup>th</sup>. Note: They have new executive director trying to clean up legal standing.
- **Motion:** Motion to sign document appointing MCAN Board President as proxy to attend and vote on MEC's behalf at MCAN's meeting in order to adopt new bylaws.
  - Roll Call Vote – 10 yes votes. Motion is unanimously approved.

Gary LaMothe will send invitations for socially distant Social: August 27.

Ellen Katz: Attorney General's ruling in Brookline. They do not have right to oppose state rulings. They will be challenging. Ellen will forward meetings concerning this.

MAPC is looking for program for participation called Remap – looking for racial inequity in Massachusetts.

Martha is representative from Rocky Mountain – new natural gas hook-up She will fill us in for September meeting.

**Motion to Adjourn: So, moved 8:49.**

**Move to approve June Meeting Minutes – So Moved**

*Note that MEC skips both August and December so the next meeting is on September 24<sup>th</sup>.*