



MELROSE ENERGY COMMISSION Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: Thursday, November 19, 2020 7:15 pm

Location: Internet

Attendees: Susan Baron, Andrea Bates, David Bliss, June Cuttino, Doug Dick, Rodney Dowell, Martha Grover, Ellen Katz, Gary Lamothe, Ian Moriarty, Sunil Sanis, Lori Timmerman, Lisa Montuori Trimble

Guest: Janine Venuti

Presiding: Gary LaMothe and Sunil Sainis

Secretary: Susan Baron

Welcome and introductions

Approve October Meeting Minutes

Suggested change: "Results came back from survey, but not clear if MEC is supposed to analyze the results or MAPC is. Python based Natural Language Toolkit can be used to analyze data. Can help MAPC intern figure that out if needed."

Motion to approve October meeting with correction - passed unanimously. So moved.

October meeting minutes approved.

Solar Hot Water at Congregational Retirement Homes: (Gary/Sunil/Susan Murphy/Lori)

Had meeting with Ward Hamilton (on board of Congregational Retirement Homes). There are three buildings connected to the retirement homes.

- Ward reached out to MEC because a roof replacement is scheduled and he wanted to inquire about solar panel/hot water options.
- Ward has talked to board and project manager about possibilities. They would like to consider putting in solar panels and other changes.
- Susan Murphy will look into additional sustainability steps they can use.
- The response has been quite good. If others wish to participate, Ward is looking for guidance and ideas. Recommended that we refer studies to Ward.
- Sunil will send out information when next meeting established.

HeatSmart Initiative: Martha Grover for Susan Murphy

- Closing in on 100 contracts and getting very good reviews.
- Further information:
 - New England Ductless will be paying for another mailing. December 1st deadline.
 - Water/Sewer bill and newspaper have inserts for HeatSmart program.
 - Susan would like people to hang door hangers; if you have time, contact her to volunteer.
- Amount of work that Susan Murphy has put in has been quite extensive.
 - **Motion** to spend \$100 on appreciation. Seconded – passed unanimously. So moved.

Net Zero Zoning Amendments: Ellen Katz and Martha Grover

- Update on Zoning subcommittee commercial areas amendment
 - *Note:* MAPC and MCAN are local groups promoting local support for net zero “EZ stretch code” submitted to BBRs (Board of Building Regulations and Standards-state board that issues energy codes). This is a net zero stretch code. Melrose accepted a stretch code in 2010. Statewide building codes have since caught up with this stretch code. This “EZ energy stretch code” is for commercial buildings 5,000 square feet or greater which requires deep energy efficiency. Parallel residential codes are in process.
- BBRs have two annually hearings. Comments must be submitted by November 24th. Ellen circulated template. Ellen will draft something from MEC and David and Doug will review.
- Martha may be drawing up a separate letter from City.

Letter from the Future: David Bliss

- David sent a first draft to MEC and will continue working on this. Would like to have input and suggestions from other members.
- Please read letter and submit ideas to David

NetZero Update: Martha Grover

Update on Roadmap Action section and Plan documentation

- Martha needs to pull together draft roadmap from feedback (July and August). She will put documents out on building, mobility and clean energy supply.
- She will have virtual open house where main action items will be put in survey. This will be a 45 minutes survey that will have a two-week response time. Will have draft implementation plan by end of December. Will hold meetings in January/February for other groups. Want plan with accountability.
- Would like this work to move to establish a Melrose sustainability commission. (MEC is not a recognized commission). This would allow city staff to be engaged in commission work.

MEC Focus 2021: Gary LaMothe

- Gary: will send out email about MEC 2021 focus.
- Would like us to have focus on electrification and renewable technology
- Build up our communications structure
- First steps may be education.
- Other ideas:
 - Energy Coach and website: Please see Newton Energy Coach website: <https://newtonenergycoach.org/> : can we have a Electrify Melrose website?
 - Electric car options
 - Discussion of JRM landfill. Where is the similar one in Wakefield?

- Lisa: Education is needed to tie renewables and energy use together. Lisa has someone who can speak to behavior change and will contact her to talk to MEC early in 2021.
- Discuss idea on how to reach new groups in 2021.
 - Andrea: wish to engage non-home owners. There is great opportunity to address this new crowd. (lives in building with all electric and well insulated) Educate people who may be buying
- Sunil – will start google doc for communication
- Please send ideas to Sunil and Gary for the next meeting

MEC Election

We should have had elections in September. 2020. We should do this in January.

Let Gary and Sunil know if you are interested in upcoming positions.

Chair

Co-chair

Secretary

Communications Coordinator

Motion to adjourn. So moved. Adjourned at 8:55pm.