



MELROSE ENERGY COMMISSION Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: Thursday, February 25, 2021 7:15 pm

Location: Virtual meeting via WebEx

Attendees: David Bliss, June Cuttino, Martha Grover, Ellen Katz, Gary Lamothe, Ian Moriarty, Sunil Sanis, Lori Timmerman

Guest: Janine Venuti

Presiding: Gary Lamothe and David Bliss

Secretary: Lori Timmermann (substitute for Susan Baron)

Welcome and Introductions

Approve January Meeting Minutes

Suggested change: Related to the survey from the Net Zero Plan, replace "...undersampled 25 years and others..." with "...undersampled 25 years and under..."

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

January meeting minutes approved.

MEC Representative for MCAN: Gary Lamothe

- The new executive director for MCAN would like more participation from municipalities. They have monthly chapter meetings and periodic calls to network. They engage with organizations like MEC and Energy Committees in other towns.
- Defined MCAN – Mass Climate Action Network – for the group.
- Martha mentioned that the effort to have chapter reps is new under the new executive director. She shared that MCAN offered a great webinar on how to use social media for advocacy last week and would follow up with a link to the webinar.
 - Webinar recording: [click here](#)
 - Slide deck: [click here](#)
- Cassandra indicated she could attend MCAN meetings if they are not during the day. She has offered to be the contact.
- David asked if Cassandra could provide an MCAN update in MEC meetings.

Metro Credit Union Discussion: Ellen Katz

- Emails sent to Planning Board related to the building on the corner of Main St. and Sylvan St. Ellen would like feedback from MEC. The credit union is asking to replace the building they have and add a building with ATM and drive through capabilities, with a curb cut on Main St. and drive through on the edge of property line and out onto Sylvan St.
- Ped Bike spoke against the drive through as the area is targeted for bicycles and pedestrian traffic. Ellen is also concerned about adding a drive through and several neighbors have spoken against it. Ellen feels it goes against what Melrose is trying to do in reducing greenhouse gases.

- The meeting in February was continued into March. MCU is no longer asking for a curb cut on Main St. They may purchase an additional property and wrap the drive through around the building.

Discussion:

- What's going on with parking. Credit Union is making the case that they didn't have enough parking.
- Sunil is ok with the drive through if they put in a ground source heat pump.
- Cassandra asked if they could put in an EV charging station.
- David felt that there are valid reasons that people use drive throughs. Especially during the COVID pandemic. Many businesses have drive up locations to make their business happen.
- Janine asked if there are other locations MCU could move to that would serve them better.
- Ellen does not like the increase in GHG emissions due to cars idling at the drive through. MEC could be the voice against this.
- *Cassandra made a motion to: Send a letter encouraging emissions mitigation pending the results of the zoning research. Affirmative votes: June, Sunil, David, Cassandra, Gary, Ellen, Ian; Lori abstained*
- Possibly send a letter on behalf of MEC suggesting there be an offset if the board grants an appeal.

2021 MEC Initiatives "Kickoff": Gary Lamothe

- MCP Opt-up to 100% Local Green Campaign
 - Susan Murphy is willing to do many things but can't be the point person. Martha said this campaign won't be as heavy a lift as HeatSmart as it's not time-based and most/all of the marketing materials already exist. The point person would be working with the new Communications Director in the Mayor's office. Janine volunteered to be point person.
 - Timing of new MCP contract: Contract expires in November 2021. The broker figures out a good time to make a purchase, often early spring or fall.
- Electrify Melrose
 - Gary volunteered to be point person. Envisioned separate web presence. Effort of education then becomes more a campaign. Sunil can help. Ian suggested making a section of MEC website dedicated to electrification. Gary, Sunil, Lori, and Ian will team on this.
- Monitor Zoning Board/New Construction Activity
 - Ellen is point person; David Bliss, Susan Murphy, Sadie Brown volunteered to support. Call happened today.
 - David asked if Memorial Hall roof was happening. A discussion of including energy efficiency in the project took place.
 - Martha indicated an RFQ is being issued.

- Ellen suggested writing a letter reminding them of certain energy efficiency elements that should be considered.
- David will check the central register to see what has been posted.
- Ellen will resend letter to request certain items be included in the RFQ.
- EV Charging Station Signage
 - Lori is point person. Cassandra will work with her on signage for the EV Charging Stations.
- Annual Climate Survey
 - Ian is looking into this – and has initial survey ideas. Sunil, Janine and Lori will help.

Net Zero Action Plan Update: Martha Grover

- Martha is looking for feedback on milestones and implementation sections of the draft plan. No need to review in detail. (2030, 2040, 2050, and implementation).
- Martha will set up a meeting to discuss in a couple of weeks. Gary, Ellen, Cassandra, Finn from Ped/Bike are acceptable for the review team.

Letter from the Future: David Bliss

- David sent to people that were noted in the minutes as interested in reviewing. Need to get comments in same timeframe as reviewing the NetZero Action Plan Update.

Melrose Web landing pages on EnergySage: Gary Lamothe

- EnergySage is looking for two contacts. Gary and Ian will provide info to EnergySage.

Social Media Intern: Gary Lamothe

- Gary took a stab at a new job description. He will review with people who had provided input in the Fall. Gary will send the job description to colleges with sustainability programs.

Other Business:

Sponsor Trivia Bee? General consensus was that people don't want to participate until it is in person. Gary will let them know we won't be participating this year.

David is offering an IR scan of home in live auction Saturday night at the UU church.

Motion to adjourn. So moved. Adjourned at 9:00pm.