



**MELROSE ENERGY COMMISSION Meeting Minutes**

**Date/Time:** Thursday, January 28, 2021 7:15 pm

**Location:** Internet

**Attendees:** Tyler Ballew Susan Baron, David Bliss, Doug Dick, Rodney Dowell, Martha Grover, Ellen Katz, Gary Lamothe, Ian Moriarty, Susan Murphy Sunil Sanis, Lori Timmerman, Janine Venuti

Cassandra Koutalidis (late for voting)

**Presiding:** Gary LaMothe and Sunil Sainis

**Secretary:** Susan Baron

Approve November Meeting Minutes

Motion to accept meeting minutes: Unanimous verbal approval minutes: **So moved.**

**Elections:**

**Gary Lamothe nominated for co-chair**

Voice Vote:

Gary: yes

Doug: yes

Ellen: yes

David: yes

Susan M: yes

Ian: yes

Susan B: yes

Tyler: yes

Janine: yes

Rodney: yes

Sunil: yes

**Gary Lamothe elected as co-chair**

**David Bliss nominated for cochair.**

Voice Vote:

Gary: yes

Doug: yes

Ellen: yes

David: yes

Susan M: yes

Ian: yes

Susan B: yes

Tyler: yes

Janine: yes

Rodney: yes

Sunil: yes

**David Bliss elected as co-chair**

**Susan Baron nominated for recording secretary.**

Voice Vote:

Gary: yes

Doug: yes

Ellen: yes

David: yes

Susan M: yes

Ian: yes

Susan B: yes  
Tyler: yes  
Janine: yes  
Rodney: yes  
Sunil: yes

### **Susan Baron elected as recording secretary**

### **Ian Moriarty nominated for Communication Coordinator.**

Voice Vote:  
Gary: yes  
Doug: yes  
Ellen: yes  
David: yes  
Susan M: yes  
Ian: yes  
Susan B: yes  
Tyler: yes  
Janine: yes  
Rodney: yes  
Sunil: yes

### **Ian Moriarty elected as Communication Coordinator**

### **HeatSMART Wrap-up/Final Numbers (Susan Murphy)**

- This program will officially end January 31, 2021. There was a well-attended final webinar
- Although Installers and consultants have not yet submitted numbers, preliminary installations: :
  - One Hundred and seven ductless air sources
  - Nine ground source heat pumps
  - Twenty-four solar hot water.
- Will be able to offer lower prices until March, (not for ground source heat pump prices; incentive ran out).
- Will send gift cards out connected to this.
- There is a continuing group of HeatSmart people that will maintain momentum.
- Question: How many migrated from one source to a new one? Susan will ask New England Ductless.
- People are still asking about the program: Melrose Towers inquiry.
- Thanks to Sunil, Lori, Martha and David for help.

### **Net Zero Action Plan Update (Martha)**

- Contract with MAPC; grant ended in December.
  - Worked on presentation we can use on road.
  - Martha is waiting for new MAPC contract.
- Running alongside this is new state bill setting more milestones. Would like to have subcommittee to break down time frame goals until 2030.
- Would like to have small subcommittee for David's letter to the future.
  - Subcommittee: Susan M., Cassandra, Doug and Ellen will work with David.
  - Martha will send this around and ask for review
  - Have Arlington and Natick plans for guidance.
- State Climate bill is very exciting and aggressive. It was vetoed, but resubmitted and voted on in short time. Is now before the Governor. Thirty communities signed on for support.

- If statewide stretch code passes on state level, it will make it easier to reference codes.

### **Rocky Mountain Institute's Building Electrification Accelerator program wrap up (Ellen)**

- Martha and Ellen participated in 8-month educational program
  - Goal: to followed Brookline's effort to ban all but electric energy use for new construction. Although that was overturned by Attorney General, communities may still be able to find pathways.
  - A dozen communities are putting in Home Rule petition to state that is like Brookline's ban. Will take a long time, but want to show interest.
  - There were calls with 65 people on monthly calls.
  - Around 30 communities looking for home rule petitions/ non-binding moves to encourage electrification, if not standards, then guidelines.
  - There are large reference library resources that will be on a Google site.
- Take away;
  - Education is important
  - Outreach to involve community.
  - Need to convince that this move does not adversely affect lower income residents.
- MEC might look into review of needed zoning changes.
- David: has concern about economics of electrification: heat pump conversion – ask people about cost benefit – are subsidies needed?
  - David will work on analysis experiences. Sunil and Susan Murphy will work with David.

### **Analysis of the MCA Climate Survey (Sunil/Ian)**

- Climate survey: We have under sampled 25 years and under, so options may not be as reflective of all Melrose.
- Classified response and have 5 basic Responses about engagement
- Also did word clouds. People engaged realize this will be big change
- Sunil will submit document to MEC for review
- Looking for input on any next steps.

### **MEC 2021 Focus**

- **MCP Opt-up to 100% Local Green Campaign**
  - Campaign to opt into this. Susan Murphy will participate, but not be point person
- **Electrify Melrose** – Make this like Heat Smart program. – Gary will be point person
  - We will be rolling into a new contract - Is there an appetite for different cost offering? What percent should be offered? What options are too many? Aggregation options: – Martha will be reviewing this for new contract.
  - (renters have not been reached yet – 30% residents are renters. – look into reaching them) Susan Murphy will work on some outlines to approach this; Ian and Cassandra.

**Net Zero specifications:** Martha will let us know of participation opportunities

### **Follow Melrose Zoning amendments and individual building developments.**

Would like MEC to have voice in this. Can we be part of building projects?

- Work on private development projects such as Essex Street and Marty's Furniture building need to be followed.

- City building projects such as Memorial Hall, Library Roof renovation and Safety buildings
- Ellen will be point person, and will call in help as needed. David Bliss can help with this.

**Post signage for electrical charging stations in Melrose.**

- Indicate location of EV stations; similar to parking lot signs. DPW would need to install.
- Cassandra will try locate standard graphics for this.
- Also, will need to suggest sign locations for
- Lori interested with working on this with Martha and Cassandra

**Fall survey:**

- have an annual survey to measure/track attitudes and perception change.
- Use survey monkey and send to mailing list.
- Martha working with group and can have them construct this: \$750.

**Follow-up from previous meetings:**

- Letter from the Future (David)
- Melrose Web landing pages on Energy Sage (Gary)
- Social Media Intern (Gary)
- Net Zero Zoning Amendments (Ellen)
- Congregational Retirement Homes green renovation

**Other Items:**

- State-Mandated online conflict of interest training
- MCAN community rep needed

9:20 pm motion to adjourn so moved

Adjourn –

Next Meeting Thursday, February 25, 2021 7:15pm

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