



MELROSE ENERGY COMMISSION Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: Thursday, March 25, 2021 7:00 pm

Location: Internet

Attendees: Susan Baron, David Bliss, Doug Dick, Rodney Dowell, Martha Grover, Ellen Katz, Cassandra Koutalidis, Gary Lamothe, Ian Moriarty, Susan Murphy Sunil Sanis, Lori Timmerman, Lisa Montuori Trimble

Presiding: Gary LaMothe

Secretary: Susan Baron

Welcome and introductions

Approve February meeting minutes (Susan/Lori)

One change of "names" to "contacts"

Motion to approve meeting minutes with one change: unanimous approval.

MEC Spending through June 2021 (Gary/David)

- Website Certificate
 - Ian: MelroseEnergy.org is on GoDaddy until 2022 and will require the purchase a new certificate in 2022 to be hosted there. This would cost \$94.00.
 - May want to look at another provider in the future. Ian will look into other hosts
- EV Charger Survey
 - Martha: EV charger survey: Brianna Garcia is new communication coordinator. If we want more EV sites, we need to know about Melrose resident's future plans Discussed vehicle survey purchase survey with Mayor and Brianna. MEC should contract with Energy New England (ENE) to do this survey.
 - This might cost around \$1200.
 - Note: ENE survey response rate has been good, but audience is usually different
 - City does not have email list for residents.
 - Concord site that they did: <https://concordma.gov/2169/Electric-Vehicles>
 - Their website: <https://ev.ene.org/>
 - We could have Energy New England do a MEC presentation/discussion
 - Martha will provide information to Susan M. to invite them to present to MEC
- Other Suggestions
 - Social Media Intern? (will fall into next fiscal year)
 - Opt-Up initiative spending and Earth Week- postcard and signs
 - We can purchase library materials

Earth Week Planning (Gary/David)

- MCP Opt-Up “event”
 - Brainstorming session to come up for Earth week. David sent email with ideas.
 - One idea: Melrose community power up party
 - There will be a series of events from Earth Day to Arbor Day – EV charger ribbon cutting, community clean up, Ped bike and other events
 - <https://forms.gle/994JvcHwLg5KtC2U7>
 - Sunil, Ian, Lori, David and Gary Susan M. Lisa would like to be part of Opt Up event Subcommittee. Gary will send out invitation: meet Monday evening 6:00pm. Will get info to City in by April 2nd.
 - Ideas:
 - Library may put in bookmarks?
 - 100 for 100 opt up sign ups?
 - Ellen could have person talk about Climate Change event
 - EV invite parade

Metro Mayors Climate Celebration Recap (Martha)

- This Task Force was formed in 2015 and signed 2016 agreement. Had a five-year celebration of 15 cities’ progress.
- Link to the Metro Mayor's Celebration.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n2mba4orXOk>

NetZero Action Plan Update (Martha)

- Subcommittee met and reorganized plan. Met with department heads – Denise and Emma will read draft of plan and will get feedback from them and then from the Mayor.
- Advised Mayor to have an EV policy to be ready

MCAN Update (Susan/Cassandra)

- Network of energy commissions meeting. There was a NetZero plan presentation from Cambridge and Northampton where building and zoning proposals were discussed.
- Note: Many towns do not have funds for dedicated energy staff members. It was suggested that a small % fee per kilowatt hour charged to fund staffing positions.
- MCAN is moving against a Peabody Energy purchase. May want to have a “MCAN Minute”. Cassandra will offer invitation to speakers

Planning Board Zoning Proposal Update (Susan/Ellen)

- Planning board was thinking providing incentives to allow added floors in exchange for community improvement.
- MEC wanted more specific energy requirement language to be a prerequisite for this. Planning board was interested, but concerned about legal. They decided to use older wording. There will be April hearing. Was able to provide other examples of more energy specific language. Would like MEC members to attend April meeting.

- Since these events, the environment on the State level has changed due to upcoming Net Zero initiatives. Why allow building if it will just have to be retrofitted?

Metro Credit Union Update (Ellen)

Ellen was going to draft a letter from MEC to oppose idea a drive thru for bank and suggest offsets. In the meantime, neighbors complained and variance requests were withdrawn.

Memorial Hall RFQ (David/Ellen)

RFQ has been issued for design services for the hall. Want to do all windows and roof and other enclosures.

Schedule: Will do contract qualification reviews starting March and end this in April. Bid will be awarded in fall.

There is a client committee that will participate in a review.

Motion: MEC will send letter to Elena Ellis, Vonnie Reis, and Denise Gaffey to request that a MEC representative be allowed on Client Memorial Hall design Review Committee

Vote – unanimous approval

GSHP COP and effects of ground heat accumulation (Sunil)

Attended session. Question of what happens if heat pump keeps dumping heat/cold in ground? May decrease efficiency – still looking into physics. Gave a thermal accumulation in GSHP presentation.

Pole-mounted EV Charger Update (Lori)

Mt. Hood now live. Common Playground and another went in. Ribbon cutting on Earth Day.

Adjourn – 9:03 PM

Next Meeting Thursday, April 22, 2021 7:15pm (Earth Day!!)