

# Board Members

Carey Bergeron, Chair

Lawrence Ellsworth, Member

Alex Siekierski, Member

Kristen Rice, Member

Jason Reposa, Member

Martin Dietrich, Member

David Travalini, Member

Stephanie Carlisle, DPW Staff Contact

John Foresto, Bd Slctmn Liaison

Bob Tucker, PEDB Liaison

Town of Medway

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Energy and Sustainability Committee

**January 27, 2021 6:30PM**

Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, and the Governor’s Orders imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, no in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted at this meeting. Committee members may be participating remotely. For public meetings, access via Microsoft Teams is provided for the required opportunity for public participation.

**Members present:** Carey Bergeron, Kristen Rice, Jason Reposa, Martin Dietrich, David Travalini, Alex Siekierski Stephanie Carlisle and Tracy Rozak, Recording Secretary

# **Absent:** Larry Ellsworth

Also Present: Sue O’Connor

**Call to Order**

Dave Travalini called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm

**MFE Introduction**

Jason stated he invited Sue O’Connor to the meeting tonight. Sue introduced herself and explained that MFE stands for Medway Foundation for Education. They are a small group of volunteers and before COVID they did a lot of fundraising events and all the money goes into the schools through grants. She has been on the board for 5 years. Baystate Textile bins have been at each school for several years and a new bin was recently added at the Recycling Center. It has been a win- win situation because the textiles are recycled and for every ton of material collected Baystate Textiles gives $100 to the MFE Bins are picked up weekly or as needed. They recycle as much as they can and most of the items are reusable. Everything has to be bagged and they accept a variety of items ranging from ripped clothing stuffed animals, and linins, but they don’t take a few things like carpet and couch cushions. Sue stated they also have an internship for one junior and one senior that help out with social media content. They haven’t done any scholarships but just recently partnered with the Lamson Foundation and have grants in her name. Teachers put in for the grants for technology and programming and MFE votes on them. You can check out the “grants in action” section of the MFE website to see things they have funded.

**Action items- Update**

**Kristen: List of topics and social media blurbs (attached)**

The group discussed posting things on social media, having their own Facebook page etc. Kristen asked that all members send her any ideas they have.

**Marty, Carey, Kristen: prioritize a list of topics to discuss with Town Manager and the Communications Director**

Carey stated she has a meeting with the Town Manager on 2/3/21 at 2pm. She does not have a formal 5 year plan but more of a list of ideas. She wants to present the big picture and their short term ideas to the board and see what feedback they have. Stephanie stated Sandy should be invited to this meeting and discuss social media posts with her.

**Marty and Jason: scholarship language**

Nothing to update at this time.

**Ongoing Discussions**

**Plastic Bag Reduction Bylaw**

Stephanie stated she went to the meeting on Monday and they voted to keep the effective date. Stores can file with the Board of Health (BOH) and ask for an additional 6 month extension, but ultimately all stores will have to discontinue use of thin film plastic bags. Stephanie stated she sent a notice to all the businesses in town in July 2020 which explained the Bylaw, explained that the State rescinded its temporary suspension of local plastic bag ban Bylaws and using reusable bags, and that the BOH authorized an additional 6 months for store to use up their plastic bag supplies. The additional 6 months brought the new Bylaw effective date to January 27, 2021. The notice also included a copy of the Bylaw. To help businesses comply, Stephanie is going to distribute an additional notice to all businesses in Medway and may have her intern hand deliver them. After that, stores will first receive a written warning stating they are not complying with the Plastic Bag ban. Next they would receive a $100 fine and additional fines if they are caught still using plastic bans. She is working on the language for the enforcement order letter.

Dave stated you won’t be able to catch all the offenders and really have to rely on people ratting out their neighbors. The best way is to keep sending those notices and hope that the public pressure will help them obey the laws. Stephanie will also reach out to John Foresto for advice.

**Solid waste diversion companies**

Not discussed.

**Black Earth, Mi-Box**

Not discussed.

**Tree Bylaw**

Not discussed.

**Reports from other members**

Dave stated he spoke to the Charles River Waste Facility and they said they would be happy to give tours when COVID is over. Dave also stated it would be a great idea to have young students plant a tree each year to show how they can help with climate change.

Jason mentioned 555 Hopping Brook, Holliston. They are going to put in a distribution center. They just got approval to clear more trees and will start on February first. People that live nearby are upset and there will be more trucks and traffic going through there.

**MESC budget discussion**

Not Discussed.

**Community Choice Aggregation**

Stephanie explained the process to reinstate the Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program. First,the Board of Selectman need to sign the Consultant Agreement and then Colonial Power will give us a plan for the Board of Selectmen to sign. The committee will supply Colonial with the minutes from every meeting that CCA was discussed, and post the plan online and at the clerk’s office for 3 weeks for public comment. Then Colonial will submit it to the Department of Public Utilities. They will discuss this more at the next meeting when Larry is present.

**Approval of minutes: December 16, 2020**

***Jason made a motion to approve the December 16th 2020 meeting minutes as submitted with Stephanie’s edits and his one edit changing “Master Renewables” to “Mass Renewables.” Kristen seconded the motion and Marty, Dave, and Carrie all stated aye they were in favor and it was voted to approve 5-0-1.***

**Action Items**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Action Items** | **Assigned To** | **Deadline** | **Status** |
| Discuss how they should spend their budget | All members | ongoing |  |
| Discuss the possibility of sponsoring a scholarship | All members | ongoing |  |
| Dave will speak to the Charles River Waste facility about tours and speak to the middle school principal. | Dave | By the December meeting | Completed |
| Write letter of support for Volta | Carey | By the November meeting | Completed |
| Compile a list of trash diversion companies | Kristen | By the November meeting | Completed |
| Stephanie will add Volta to the next meeting agenda. Special meeting might be need | Stephanie | October 21, 2020 completed | Completed |
| Carey will set up a meeting with Michael Boynton by the next meeting to discuss their plans. | Carey | October 21, 2020 in progress | Completed |
| Martin will set up a meeting with Carey and Kristen to work on the priorities to discuss with Michael Boynton. | Martin | October 21, 2020 in progress | In progress |
| Kristen will put together a list of social media blurbs that other members can add to that Sandy can use for social media. | Kristen | October 21, 2020 in progress | Completed |

**Adjourn**

***Jason made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 pm. Dave seconded the motion and Alex, Kristen, Marty and Carrie all stated they were in favor and it was approved 6-0-0.***

Respectfully submitted by,

Tracy Rozak

**DRAFT Idea List on Social Media Topics:**

Eco Friendly during Covid:

- Reusable Masks (ones you can wash & reuse)

- Reusable bags for shopping

- Prepare your car (reusable water bottles, reusable silverware)

Textiles:

- Recycling / how to

- Buying sustainable fabric

   -Upcycled goods

   -Second Hand

   -Ethically Made

Electricity & Heating:

- How to save on your bill & use less electricity

- How to save on your heating bill & ways to keep warm

Recycling:

-Medway Rules on what to recycle

-How to Recycle

-What the Triangle #s mean

Composting:

-Why & How to Compost

Eco Friendly Swaps:

- Bathroom Swaps

- Kitchen Swaps

- Reusable Bags

- Reusable Water Bottles / Coffee Cups

Carbon Footprint:

-What is it?

- How to decrease your carbon footprint

Food:

Buy Local When possible - Farmers Market

Buying Unpackaged (unwrapped fresh vegetables vs wrapped veggies, glass vs plastic)

Meatless Mondays

Giveaways

- Once a month? Or Maybe do a few in April as a build up for earth day?