

# **Board Members**

**Martin Dietrich, Chair**

**Nicholas Fair, Vice-Chair**

**Jason Reposa, Member**

**Wally Long, Members**

**David Travalini, Member**

**David Fitzgerald, 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 Meeting

February 15, 2023 – 6:30 pm

**Members present:**  Nicholas Fair, Jason Reposa, Dave Fitzgerald, David Travalini, and Stephanie Carlisle

**Absent**: Martin Dietrich, Wally Long

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**Call to Order**

Nick called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**Discuss and decide on next Steps for Community Choice Aggregation Program**

Stephanie stated Colonial Power came to the January meeting and gave an update of where the town is with the program and left it up to us if we want to move forward. If we want to move forward, we would have to get an agreement and have it approved by the Town Manager and the Select Board. The Department of Public Utilities would have to review the submission and that part has been taking a really long time. Last time, Medway did not want to lock into a rate for a long term but that is how these programs work and how you see the long term benefits. Nick stated that we should present to the Select Board what we learned and recommend leaving ourselves in the que because there is no harm in doing so as nothing happens within 18 months anyway. You don’t go to market for the rates until you’ve completed this process. **Action: Stephanie will check with the Select Board about when is a good time for the MESC to present this information to the Select Board at a future meeting.**

**Update from the Chair regarding codifying there recommendation to require 20 % of the funds from the Battery Storage System (BESS) Host Site Agreement to go towards energy efficient projects.**

Marty was not present for the meeting but Nick stated it seems as if there is really nothing we can do. Stephanie stated there is no way to have a specific fund to put ten percent of the money into. All of the money has to go into the general fund. Dave T. stated the town has very little say about utilities. BESS is coming one way or another. Nick stated the committee gave our recommendations to the Select Board and that is all we can do. **Action Item: This subject is closed and will be noted in the Annual Report.**

**Discuss the heat pump conversion option at the Senior Center**

Stephanie stated Prism went and looked at the Senior Center last month but they were not sure if everything could be converted without a back- up fossil fuel source. Stephanie needs to follow up with them.Eversource can give us a free assessment and show different pathways but they probably can’t spend as much time looking at all of the options. Dave T. stated a lot of companies are encouraging people to get a backup fossil fuel source but they are finding it’s not really needed. The Senior Center is an emergency warming center so they have to stay open and be heated. Nick stated the town is doing another facility assessment of public buildings. Dave T. stated they are thinking about getting rid of the Fire Station. Stephanie stated Prism is still working on their report and when it’s complete they will review it. Stephanie asked Wendy from Prism to put together a proposal for us. Nick asked if it would be beneficial for him to run an analysis of the oil and efficiency currently being used at the Senior Center. He can look at what we pay now versus what we would pay if we had a heat pump. Stephanie stated that would be great if he’d like to do that. Dave T. asked if we want to contact Eversource and have them come look at the Senior Center. Dave T. volunteered to go on the site walk with them. **Action Item: Nick will run an oil efficiency analysis of the Senior Center and have it for our next meeting. Action Item: Stephanie will look into having Eversource take a look at the Senior Center.**

**Update on the MESC Scholarship**

Jason stated the rubric and the template are ready. We can announce it in the spring. If they have more than one applicant, then they will be able to use the rubric. We need to figure out more ways to publicize the scholarship to get more than one applicant. We need to look for more donors and give them an incentive to donate. Dave T. stated we are a public entity so we can’t really give them an incentive. Jason suggested changing the name of the award every year to the company that donated the most funds. Stephanie stated the purpose the Scholarship is to promote the MESC, so we want to keep the MESC name on it. We will discuss this topic more when Marty is back.

**Planning for Medway Pride Day**

Stephanie stated the date has not been confirmed but she thinks it will be May 20th. We have a booth every year with posters and give a ways. Stephanie stated we have $300 to spend on the event and she suggested spending some money on a nice banner to describe who we are. Jason mentioned last year they planned to give out seedlings but weren’t able to get them in time. Stephanie will look into the cost of a banner. Dave T. stated if we could get a bigger budget, we could raffle off entries to win an in home composter which costs about four hundred dollars. It could be one entry per household with one winner. Stephanie will ask Pete from the DPW if they have any extra composters they could donate. Dave stated in the future, we should consider asking for five to six hundred dollars for our yearly budget. **Action Item: Dave T. will ask Bridget how we ask for more money in the budget for next year. Action Item: Stephanie will ask Pete from the DPW if they have any extra composters they could donate.**

Nick stated he would like to come up with a pamphlet or colored display about solar panels. Jason suggested putting a QR code where people could leave their feedback. Jason thinks it a great way to get the publics opinion. You could also ask for their email address and email them for their support at Select Board meetings. Stephanie thought it’s a great idea to get email addresses from residents and notify them of upcoming meetings or issues. Stephanie stated she created a pamphlet for last year’s pride day that they can update and use again. Jason stated he could work on the newsletter because he has all the software. **Action Item: Stephanie will look into updating the pamphlet, compost bins, saplings, and a banner. Action Item: Jason will look into the QR code.**

**Discuss Annual Report Items**

Stephanie stated this is just a one page summary that lists the things we accomplished in the past year. Dave T. suggested things like the research they did on solar panels, hybrids & electric vehicles and the MESC Scholarship. **Action Item: Nick will ask Marty if he has anything written up already.**

**Other Items**

**Discussion about Stretch Code**

Stephanie stated the Building Commissioner wants to enforce the Stretch Code but he is worried about residents having to meet the requirements. There is a permit request that would trigger the new Stretch Code. If you are adding an addition more than 1,000 square feet this would trigger the Stretch Code. There are work arounds that will most likely happen.

Stephanie stated she met with Michael Boynton, John Ackley, Susy Affleck-Childs and Sandy Johnston from Communications and they are going to send out a town wide notification about the new Stretch Code and how it applies to residents. She has a meeting next week with John Ackley and the Select Board to discuss this further. The committee discussed who will be most affected by the Stretch Code and possible questions that could come up. Stephanie stated she is concerned that Medway might want to get out of being a Green Community. Stephanie hopes this does not happen and stated we have received a lot of grant money because we are part of the Green Community. This is a point of pride for the town and the Green Communities logo is plastered all over town and on their vehicles. Stephanie displayed a memo about Stretch Code on the screen and asked the committee for their input. They committee recommended removing the second page with all the hypothetical numbers but everything else looked really good. Dave T. stated he spoke with Michael Boynton about Electric Vehicles (EVs) and hybrids. Michael stated they would take the vehicles home so they would need a charger installed at their houses. The Police Chief is very supportive of EV’s and the Fire Chief is pushing back a little.

**Housekeeping**

**Approval of January 18, 2023 meeting minutes**

***Dave F. made motion to approve the January 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes as submitted. Jason seconded the motion and Nick, Jason, Dave T. and Dave F. all stated aye they were in favor and the minutes were approved.***

**Approval of January 25, 2023 special meeting minutes**

***Dave F. made motion to approve the January 25, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes as submitted. Jason seconded the motion and Nick, Jason, Dave T. and Dave F. all stated aye they were in favor and the minutes were approved.***

**Adjourn**

***Dave F. made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm. Jason seconded the motion and Nick, Jason, Dave F. and Dave T. all stated they were all in favor and the meeting was adjourned.***

Respectfully submitted by Tracy Rozak

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| **Upcoming Medway Energy & Sustainability Committee Meetings**  *Meetings are typically the third Wednesday of the month* |