

# **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

 March 15, 2023 – 6:30 pm

**Members present:**  Martin Dietrich, Jason Reposa, David Travalini, Wally Long, and Stephanie Carlisle and Tracy Rozak, Recording Secretary.

**Absent**: Nicholas Fair, Dave Fitzgerald

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**Call to Order**

Martin called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments

* **Action Items**

**Update on MESC Scholarship fund raising and scoring rubric.**

Marty stated Jason and he met and the scholarship has been approved. If they have more than one applicant, they can use the scoring rubric. Martin stated we need to raise $500 to fund the scholarship. He asked that everyone reach out to their contacts and let them know about the scholarship. Any funds raised over $500 will be kept in the fund for next year. Marty will get back to the team with details about where to send the donations. Stephanie will look at the list of people we asked last year and see if we can add more people. Information about the scholarship will be put on the Medway Parents website.

**Update on Senior Center heat pump conversion.**

Stephanie stated she reached out to Jessica Reardon at Eversource and she will be meeting with her and Bobby McGee, Facilities Manager tomorrow to lay the groundwork. She will have more information for us at the next meeting.

**Update on Stretch Code and Mass Save programs for residents.**

Stephanie stated she met with the Building Commissioner on February 21st in front of the Select Board. She explained that we are automatically enrolled in the program because we are part of the Green Communities. The Select Board had some concerns about the burden to the existing home owners who want to do any sizable renovations (over 1,000 square feet of living space). They would now have to bring the total building into compliance. It depends on the Home Energy Rating System (HERS) ratings. Stephanie stated the Select Board had typical questions but she has not heard anything back from them or the Building Commissioner.

Dave T. stated he could invite Mounir Tayara to one of meetings in the future to come in and talk about stretch code and solar buildings. **Action: Tracy will add this to the list of future topics.**

**Discussion on Stormwater Permit requirements, phosphorus removal, and green stormwater infrastructure.**

Stephanie stated she is working on the Phosphorous Control Plan and it is due by June 30th. Stephanie explained that this is a huge undertaking as it is basically the blueprint for the next 5 years for how the town will ultimately remove 882 pounds of phosphorous annually by 2038. This number is based on 2005 land use data and will likely increase with future data. Stephanie explained that the phosphorous will be removed through raingardens and subsurface infiltrators. There will be underground perforated pipes that slowly infiltrate stormwater and the phosphorous into the ground. Town residents can help by NOT raking their leaves into the rivers and keeping leaves off of their impervious surfaces.

Stephanie explained that the town can claim credits through things like catch basins and special street sweeping. Wally asked what happens if we don’t meet the control plan criteria. Dave T. stated that generally the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will not really do much as long as you have a plan in place and are working on it.

Stephanie stated in the next two years we can request an alternate schedule/extension if we have legitimate reasons why we can’t meet the timelines. Lack of funds cannot be an excuse. Construction and bidding on projects can be a legitimate reason. Some of our existing Best Management Practices (BMPs) can be brought back to life (retrofitted) and typically you can claim one pound of credit for each. There is minimal grant money available to help with this. Stephanie said that in order to claim credit for the Candlewood Drive BMP, the Department of Public Works (Dpw) removed the trees, regraded the basin slopes and bottom, and fixed the inlet and outlet structures in the Spring of 2022. The DPW must maintain this basin by mowing it in the spring or fall in order to claim phosphorus removal credit.

Dave T. stated he would be happy to do field inspections with Stephanie and Bridget. Graziano. Stephanie stated she already has a list of over 180 BMPs basins. Dave T. asked if it would help if the town implemented a fall leaf pick up program. Stephanie said it might but she would need to know how beneficial this would be for the amount of work and cost involved.

**Update on Medway Pride Day educational material, raffle, and other outreach.**

Stephanie stated Medway Pride Day is May 20th and Mass Save will be coming this year. Stephanie stated we have some wildflower seeds and reusable straws left from last year to use as give aways. The committee discussed giveaway ideas such as saplings, seed packets, biodegradable or reusable water balloons, water bottles, straws, flowers or vegetables in little pots. Stephanie will purchase a cotton, biodegradable banner for $64 for Medway Pride Day. She will also look into the cost of saplings. Committee members should think of 2-3 good ideas for giveaways by the next meeting. The DPW is donating a composter as a raffle item. The committee discussed other ideas for a raffle item such as a farm share sampler from the Medway Community Farm.

Jason stated we could collect email addresses from people at Medway Pride Day and send out quarterly newsletters. They could even send out call to action topics such as phosphorous removal. **Action**: **All committee members should think of 2-3 give away items for the next meeting. Action:** **Stephanie will ask Allison Potter if a committee member could buy an item like a composter and donate it to the MESC for the Medway Pride give-away.**

**Discussion on Solid Waste and Recycling program and potential compost pilot program.**

Stephanie stated the solid waste and recycling program has not increased their prices since 1999. The recycling center is running at a deficit and the cost of waste disposal has increased over the years. The Select Board wants the ESC to look into contamination of the recycling containers. Jason asked how we would be able to measure this. The town can give violation notices on the recycling offenders.

Dave T. attended a Green Sword meeting recently and found that Franklin and Weston Schools have composting programs. Dave is going to contact the person at Weston and ask her about their composting program. The ESC suggested asking the following questions: What school did they start with and why? What school had the most success? Did they have to add staff to accomplish this? Do they have an action plan they are willing to share? Where do they store it all? Who do they use for their compost contractor? **Action: Dave T. will contact the person from the Weston School’s composting program and ask her about their program.**

Dave T. asked how we would get a program like this off the ground. Stephanie stated this would involve the students, parents, custodians and the kitchen workers. You would have to start small with one school and talk to the superintendent. Marty suggested talking to Michael Grennon, the School Facilities Director, first and get his suggestions. Then start small with an elementary school or middle school and speak to the Superintendent and Principal.

**Report from the Chair**

Marty stated the Select Board wants the ESC to look into Electric Vehicles and solar canopies. Stephanie stated the McGovern School roof is on the town warrant this year. We should ask them to consider a roof array or at least make them solar ready. We should look into this before it goes out to bid. **Action: Dave T. will ask Dennis who is paying for the roof.**

**Adjourn**

***Jason made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 pm. Wally seconded the motion and Wally, Dave T. Jason and Martin all stated aye they were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.***

Respectfully submitted by Tracy Rozak

**List of future topics:**

* Invite Mounir Tayara to a meeting to discuss stretch code/solar buildings

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