

# 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

**March 17, 2021**

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, Larry Ellsworth, Stephanie Carlisle and Tracy Rozak, Recording Secretary

# **Also Present:** Kelli Shivers, Joan Hallett Medway H.S. Green Team,

# Barbara St. Andre, Tracy Stewart

# **Absent:** Alex Siekierski

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**Call to Order**

Larry called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

* **Public Comments**

Barbara St. Andre asked the members to announce their names.

* **Action items Update**

**7:05pm - Kelli Shivers** **& Joan Hallett from Medway High School Green Team to discuss scholarship opportunities**

Martin stated the MESC would like to offer a $500 scholarship to a student at the school for something they have done regarding sustainability. Kelli and Joan were invited here tonight to give us their input regarding the scholarship. Joan stated this has been a challenging year with Covid, we lost a lot of kids and things went by the wayside. She thinks it’s a great idea and there are definitely students who would fit the criteria. She suggested trimming down the criteria a bit. Jason stated we are trying to work out the logistics and details for the scholarship. Tracy Stewart suggested that they open up the scholarship to all residents of Medway. Kelli thinks there are a lot of students that would be interested some of whom are working on environmentally sustainable projects for their capstone project. Larry stated it is probably too late for this year but they can solidify it and get it ready for next year. Joan suggested building a clear rubric to help them decide on a winner. Joan asked if they could give her a brief description and vision of the MESC. Action Item: Carrie will write something up and send it to Joan. Jason and Marty will start writing up the rubric and have a draft by the next meeting.

**7:35pm - Annual Town Meeting articles: Zoning Bylaw Amendment converting ARII to ER, Solar Bylaw update, and Digital Signage on electric vehicle charging stations (attached).**

Barbara St. Andre stated some electric vehicle charging stations were installed last year at the Shaw’s store and they have digital advertising signs that help pay for the electricity. This is not allowed under the town’s bylaw. The company applied for a variance, but it was denied. Article 28 of the town meeting warrant is an amendment that would allow the electric charging stations to have advertising signage if they apply through the Planning Board. There are limitations on content and size. She explained that a special permit is somewhat easier to get than applying for a variance. Barbara stated charging stations that don’t have signage are currently allowed. They are working on the wording of this to make it clear. Tracy stated Clear Channel Advertising and Volta have the right to accept or decline any advertising. The Design and Review committee might want to get involved in the size of the advertising. She wondered if it’s possible for Medway to get some grant money for their own community advertising rather than constant commercial advertising. Carrie said Volta stated they would allow for town advertising. Larry asked if the town could require a contribution by the owner of the charging station to run a certain number of public service announcements. Barbara stated that they can’t regulate the content of the signs, but the owner may choose to display town messaging, this would have to be in the special permit process. Action Item: The MESC will have a special meeting to discuss their views and let FinCom know by April 5th.

Stephanie put the plan on the overhead screen. Barbara stated the area on the plan in yellow is zoned for energy resources, the cross hatch yellow is agricultural/ residential but they are proposing to be rezoned to energy resources. The first area is owned by Exelon or Eversource. They are proposing that the area between Exelon and Milford Street be rezoned. A company called Able Grid is proposing to put a battery storage facility in this area. They store energy during off peak times and during peak times they sell that power to the grid. This is an excellent site for this type of facility because the ability to connect to the grid is much better than other places. This would be a source of clean energy and revenue for the town. Larry stated this looks like a very large and noisy project and he thinks the abutters might be concerned. Dave stated there is no way to know where the energy is coming from so you can’t say that it is clean energy. Dave suggested they ask the company where exactly the energy comes from. Tracy stated at the last Select Board meeting they discussed the noise factor a bit. They have to go by the allowable limits on noise pollution. They should wait until the environmental bylaws are worked out. Tracy is concerned about the degradation allowance for the batteries. Are they taken away somewhere? Carrie stated Michael Boynton mentioned something about this project and the DPW garage. Stephanie stated they have been looking into the DPW garage for possible battery storage. Action Item: MESC members will read this article before the special meeting.

Barbara stated it’s important to have regulations for solar facilities in the form of a Solar Bylaw. This bylaw is based on another town’s bylaw and has different tiers. The first tier would be roof mounted solar energy facilities which are allowed by right, the second tier would be small scale ground mounted solar for residences and would require a special permit. The third tier would be for Solar parking canopies that would require a site plan review and a special permit. The last tier would be any other type of ground mounted solar systems. Action Item: MESC members should read this article before the special meeting and try to attend the Planning Board meeting on March 23.

Stephanie stated she and Carrie spoke with Susy the other day about the Master plan and they would like someone from the MESC to help work on the Master plan. Carrie asked if anyone would be interested in getting involved. The Planning Board would like to know by their next meeting. Martin stated he would be happy to participate. Carrie asked if anyone else would be interested. The MESC will have a meeting on March 31st to review article #23, #25 and #28 and to discuss the new solar bylaw. Action Item: MESC members should read this article before the special meeting.

**Community Choice Aggregation discussion**

**Not discussed.**

**Tree Bylaw discussion and review**

Stephanie received the tree bylaw and will send it out to the MESC members. Dave stated they would like their comments by the November meeting. Action Item: Discuss the draft bylaw at a the April monthly meeting.

**Ongoing Discussions**

**Solid waste diversion companies Black Earth, Mi-Box**

Kristen had to leave early, not discussed.

**MESC budget discussion**

Action Item: To discuss at the April monthly meeting,

**Charles River Climate Compact**

Stephanie met with them and they are working on an MVP grant for a flood mode. In a few weeks, they will meet to discuss the findings.

**Green Community program update**

Stephanie stated she closed out the annual and final reports. Now she can apply for another round of funding up to $100k. She would like to use this money to retrofit the rest of the high school with led lighting.

.**Report from the Chair**

**Report from Subcommittees**

**Housekeeping**

* Approval of minutes: January 27, 2021

***Dave made a motion to approve the minutes 1.27. 21 meeting minutes as amended by Stephanie. Jason seconded the motion and Carrie, Dave, Martin and Jason all stated aye and it was voted to approve.***

* Approval of minutes: February 17, 2021

***Dave made a motion to approve the 2.17.21 meeting minutes as amended by Stephanie. Martin seconded the motion and Dave, Carrie, Jason, Martin all stated aye they were in favor and it was voted to approve.***

* **Adjourn**

***Martin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm. Jason seconded the motion and Dave, Carrie, Jason, Martin all stated aye they were in favor and it was voted to adjourn.***

*Respectfully submitted by,*

*Tracy Rozak*

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| **Upcoming Medway Energy & Sustainability Committee Meetings**  *Meetings are typically the third Wednesday of the month*  April 21. 2021  May 19, 2021 |