

# **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**

**Frank Rossi, Bd Slctmn Liaison**

**Bob Tucker, PEDB Liaison**

**Cindy Sullivan, School Liaison**

Town of Medway

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Energy and Sustainability Committee Meeting

April 19, 2023 – 6:30 pm

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

**Also Present:** Dennis Crowley, Chair, Select Board

**Absent**: Wally Long

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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.**

Marty stated we have 3 people committed to donations which should be enough for the Scholarship Fund. He has not heard back from Tri County yet about any possible students.

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

Stephanie stated she does not have an update at this time.

**Update on draft solar array study at town locations.**

Nick passed out a solar presentation entitled “Why Solar PV” to the committee members to review. Nick touched base on what our electric rate is now under the Town contract, and the anticipated future rate once the contract expires. He highlighted what solar arrays we have today and stated we have a past history doing PPAs and have several projects in town. Nick also highlighted the DPW Solar Arrays Success Story. He reviewed the previously identified town properties, some of which may not be highlighted the possible properties and the ruled out properties in Medway. The areas that are considered PV ready are Choate & Oakland Park, McGovern Roof, McGovern Parking Lot, and Middle & High School Parking Lots. Dennis Crowley stated he could get us a better timeline of when the new roofs are scheduled to be done. Marty asked Nick if there is included a part about how long it will take the town to recoup their costs. Nick stated that is mentioned later in the presentation. Nick outlined the paths to get there - owned or PPA Lease. Dave T. stated Nick should point out that there is no maintenance costs ever for PPAs. Nick then discussed the graphs that model the 25 year savings for the McGovern Roof, High School parking lot, Middle School parking lot as well as the savings if the Town purchased the parking canopies.

Marty suggested that on slide 6, Nick should insert another column that shows the total money saved. Dennis stated they should start the presentation by explaining what the problem is and how solar will help. What we are spending now and how much we could be saving. Dennis suggested splitting the presentation into two parts –Part 1, should be about the current 8 cent rate and the anticipated 16 cent rate. Part 2 should be about canopies and the cost savings. Dennis asked if we could get a better deal if we did all the schools as a bundle deal. Stephanie stated the way Solect Energy is procured each school has to be separate. If the town wanted to try to bundle the arrays we would have to go to bid and make sure our specifications are laid out in detail. Dennis stated the Select Board will want to know if the MESC is willing to do all the negotiations for the contract and bring the project to a start date. He would like to nail this down as soon as possible so they can get going on the roof at the McGovern School. Dennis asked how soon could the MESC be ready to present this in front of the Select Board. Nick stated we could try for the May 15, 2023 Select Board meeting. Marty stated we have to make sure we are ready so he suggested presenting at the May 30th Select Board Meeting.

Marty stated this committee should not be negotiating solar contracts that is a job for the town. Marty stated it is clearly written in the Service Level Agreement (SLA) that the school owns the school parking lot. Marty asked Nick to include the public survey results to the presentation for the Select Board. Marty stated we can present the information to the Select Board but ultimately it will be the decision of the Town Manager and the School Superintendent. **Action: Stephanie will contact Solect Energy to get updated information about the Burke and McGovern schools.**

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

Stephanie stated she bought the canvas and we received two 8 week farm shares for raffle items. Jason will come up with a QR code to capture their name and email address and a checkbox if they would like to opt out of receiving the MESC newsletter. Dave T, Marty and Stephanie will be available. Nick and Dave F. cannot attend and Jason is unsure at this time.

**Update on compost pilot program.**

Dave T. stated he signed up with the Green Sword group and has been to a couple of virtual meetings. Stephanie sent an email to the facilities manager about setting up a meeting to discuss a compost pilot program and they were not very receptive. Dave stated they should get the PTA involved first and do a survey at the middle or grade school. Dave stated they should start small by having a share table where students can leave a banana or a bag of chips and someone else can take it instead of throwing it in the trash. Another small step would be to have the students dump out their milk/juice into a bucket and just recycle the cardboard containers because the schools are charged for trash by weight. Dave T. suggested Stephanie try to get the facilities manager involved. **Action: Marty will find a person on MEPTO for Dave T. to talk to.**

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

Stephanie stated she presented this information to the Select Board last night and explained the gap between where we are now and where we need to be. The Select Board was concerned about the costs but are in favor of increasing street sweeping and adding a fall clean- up of the catch basins. We need to be taking measures to work on phosphorous clean up to avoid getting fined by the EPA.

**Begin draft Summer Newsletter.**

Jason stated he has been working on the newsletter. He asked if we should send it out from the town of Medway as the domain name. Stephanie stated she can send the newsletter out. Jason will send her the email addresses he collects from the QR code. Jason is trying to find free versions that are not tied to his business account so they will be available forever. Stephanie stated she was thinking there would be four seasonal newsletters that could be put on the website and copies dropped off at town buildings. Stephanie thinks this would be a one page letter that talks about the things that the MESC is working on (solar, composting etc.), upcoming events and a seasonal tip like don’t mow your grass in May.

**Report from Chair**

Nothing to report.

**Report from Staff Contact**

Stephanie stated she got the Community Choice Aggregation contract back from town counsel and this will be discussed at the May meeting. Stephanie also mentioned that the town hall charging stations are in high demand so we are not recouping our costs and so Charlie Myers suggested looking at battery storage at town hall to help with the demand surge.

**Approval of February 15, 2023 meeting minutes as amended.**

***Jason made a motion approve the February 13, 2023 meeting minutes as amended. Wally seconded the motion and Wally, Dave T. Jason and Martin all stated aye they were in favor and the minutes were approved.***

**Approval of March 15, 2023 meeting minutes as amended.**

***Nick made a motion approve the March 15, 2023 meeting minutes as amended. Jason seconded the motion and all members stated aye they were in favor and the minutes were approved.***

**Adjourn**

***Dave F. made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 pm. Dave T. seconded the motion and all members stated aye they were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.***

Respectfully submitted by Tracy Rozak