

# Board Members

Martin Dietrich, Vice Chair

Jason Reposa, Member

David Travalini, Member

Nicholas Fair, Member

Wallace Long, Member

Stephanie Carlisle, DPW Staff Contact

Frank Rossi, Bd Slctmn Liaison

Bob Tucker, PEDB Liaison

Cindy Sullivan, School Committee Liaison

Town of Medway

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Energy and Sustainability Committee Meeting

August 17, 2022 - 7:00 pm

Medway Middle School

DPW Conference Room

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

**Also Present:** Dave Fitzgerald, Frank Rossi, Cindy Sullivan, Charlie Myers

**Absent:**  Martin Dietrich

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* **Call to Order**

***Dave called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm***

* **Public Comments**

***There were no public comments***

1. **Discuss and vote on chair and vice chair positions.**

Dave stated we need a new chair person and might need a vice chair as well. The chair person needs to be present for the meetings. Nicholas stated he would volunteer to be chair if Marty does not want to be the chair. They will vote on this at the next meeting when Marty is present.

1. **Discuss and vote Energy and Sustainability Committee candidate – Dave Fitzgerald.**

Dave Fitzgerald stated he has been a resident of Medway for 6 years and has worked in the energy field for his whole career and now works in the natural gas industry. He has seen many changes over the years and would like to be more involved in the community and thinks this would be a perfect fit.

Jason noted that Dave has been present at the last several committee meetings.

***Jason made a motion to accept Dave Fitzgerald as a member to the Medway Energy & Sustainability Committee. Nicholas seconded the motion and all members stated they were in favor and it was approved.***

1. **Discuss the topics to bring in front of the Select Board at their August 2022 meetings. Topics include solar canopies at schools and Oakland Park; electric vehicles infrastructure for town fleet; BESS; and community engagement /Marketing/Branding**

Frank Rossi, Select Board Member, stated the agenda for next week has almost 20 items on it. He stated it looks like our items might require lengthy discussions. He asked if they would like to come to the September 12th meeting instead where they would have more time to present. Dave stated no, he would like to stay on the agenda for the meeting next week. Frank stated they will only have about 10-15 minutes for them to present. Dave stated that would be fine. He just wants to get in front of the Select Board and set up a standing meeting where they could present once per quarter.

Adam Houser of 14 Little Tree Road was present for the meeting. He stated that BESS is on the agenda for the Select Board meeting next week so the MESC might want to be there to address that particular point and make recommendations.

**Electric Vehicles**

Stephanie stated that the town vehicles are counted as part of the energy usage of the town per the Green Communities Program. Criterion # 4 of the Green Communities Program requires that we meet certain combined miles per gallon (MPG) for our fleet. Stephanie stated police vehicles were exempt from the Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy in the past; however, beginning in fiscal year 2024, police and fire vehicles will need to meet the combined MPG requirements. Only vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 8500 pounds or more will be exempt from the Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy. If we want to keep our Green Community status, we need to follow these updated requirements. All town departments should start to think about replacing their older vehicles with electric vehicles when it’s time for replacement.

\*The state vehicle contract states that by the year 2024, all vehicles 14,000 pounds or less have to be zero emissions and then all vehicles after 2029.

Nicholas stated we want to help the town to figure out what we can do today at a low cost. Wally stated there might be a lot more infrastructure involved like a bigger battery might be needed. Dave stated the police are likely to want gas vehicles or there may be other obstacles.

**\*** This is an error in communication. Only State Executive Offices will need to meet the zero emissions requirements per the “Leading By Example” legislation. There will still be gasoline options on the State Vehicle Contract.

**Solar**

Dave mentioned putting solar canopies near the playgrounds. He has heard people don’t like the aesthetics of it. He thinks if they start with smaller projects, people will get used to them after awhile. Wally stated he has heard from a lot of people that they are asking for solar canopies next to Oakland Park because there is no shade for the parents.

**BESS**

Dave stated he thinks that battery back-ups could be wonderful for the town. He understands the fear of them catching fire but transformers can explode and catch on fire as well.

Wally stated he is cautiously optimistic about BESS. He suggested asking the Select Board if there are certain things they would like us to investigate. Jason stated they need direction from the Select Board. Nicholas stated he is very familiar with BESS and thinks they can help bring information to the Select Board but concerns about sustainability would fall under the Conservation Commission not us.

Paul and Kathleen Yorkis, of 7 Independence Lane were present by Microsoft Teams for the meeting. Paul stated he would appreciate it if this group would consider a solar installation over the capped landfill that the town owns. Many other communities have installed solar farms. Dave stated we will take a look at that.

Paul stated the Select Board should have input from the MESC on BESS because this is to rezone residential land which is different from the Exelon project. It also negatively affects a number of property owners. He feels this infringes on property owner rights. Paul thinks this will impact not just the abutters but others in the community. The technology at this point in time could change but right now it is untested and is not certified. The Select Board should ask the MESC and other boards and committees for their input. Paul stated the Select Board has not held a public meeting about this topic. He does not think there is enough time to do the fact gathering and investigation before the vote at September meeting. Dave stated the Select Board has not asked the MESC for their input but the MESC is asking the Select Board if they want our input.

Charlie Myers, of Curtis Lane was present for the meeting and stated he would be happy to offer his input as he has a background in this. Charlie stated he is in favor of battery storage. You need to read between and behind the lines what the benefits are. He stated that they are recharging the batteries between 2 am and 5 am in a residential area. This is not an energy storage renewable situation. Dave stated that this is an issue for the Planning Board.

Adam Houser asked what exactly is the charge of the MESC. Dave stated we are an advisory committee and part of the Green Communities. Adam stated there are Energy & Sustainability goals in the Master Plan. He is surprised other committees haven’t reached out and given their input on BESS. He doesn’t think BESS appears to be in line with the sustainability goals in the Master Plan. Dave stated the MESC have not been in front of the Select Board since he has been on the committee. Jason stated they have reached out to the Select Board in the past to enhance the scope of the committee and other projects.

Paul Yorkis stated the August 15th draft of the Host Community Agreement definitely impacts this committee. He pointed out on page 5, that it states Medway Grid recognizes the efforts of the town to investigate the impacts and benefits of renewable energy. As such, Medway Grid agrees to a one- time payment of 50K. Paul states this basically states we are going to approve it, then give you 50K to study it. Each Select Board members has to sign this agreement. He thinks it’s very important for the MESC to take the time to research this more before the Select Board votes on it.

**4. Review Master Plan Phase III.**

Stephanie asked the committee members for their comments. Dave stated he was fine with it and liked that they wanted more involvement form MESC. Jason stated when we participated in the Master Plan there were town residents and many boards and committees that participated in it. Jason felt that our input was the same as individual citizens. Nicholas stated all the points in the Master Plan sound great but what are the things that the town can easily do. Stephanie would like to recommend that goal #14, which states the town should reduce its emissions by 40% by 2030 should be increased to 50% because this aligns with the state goals.

Stephanie stated she is not sure what strategy #14D, a community solar project meant. Nicholas stated this usually means a lot of people want to put solar in their homes but some of the homes may not be able to for various reasons. The town can put in a larger system somewhere else and home owners can buy shares.

Stephanie stated phosphorous control plan needs to be in Master Plan because this is going to be a huge expense. Stephanie noted that the town needs to remove 882 pounds of phosphorous in twenty years. You can reduce phosphorous by sweeping regularly, cleaning up leaves, removing impervious surfaces etc. Dave stated we need to educate people about rain gardens and leaf clean up/disposal.

Stephanie stated she is working on a grant to identify places were we can incorporate green stormwater infrastructure to help reduce phosphorous runoff pollution in our town. Stephanie asked the committee members to send their comments to her in writing.

***Dave made a motion to adopt the two comments that Stephanie noted above. Nicholas seconded the motion and all of the members stated they were in favor and it was approved.***

***5.* Discuss any updates on the Solar Canopy project at the schools.**

Stephanie stated Nicholas typed up a memo with a spreadsheet. Solect Energy has not sent her an updated version yet. Stephanie stated that canopies for Burke-Memorial and McGovern don’t make sense right now. Canopies make sense for the middle school and the high school.

Cindy Sullivan stated it looks like there would be an initial loss with the proposed power purchase agreement rates (PPA), and these don’t include the stormwater drainage, security cameras and other items .The school committee is not in a position to cover those costs. There would need to be another source of funding. Cindy also noted that residents have asked the School Committee to focus on the education of students rather than solar canopies.

Dave stated that only about 6% of the survey respondents were opposed to solar panels. Cindy stated it says there would be an 18 year loss for one building and a 25 year loss for the middle school. Stephanie stated that the numbers Cindy was referring to weren’t the most up to date. Stephanie stated she told Solect if it’s not going to save us money in year one then go back and redo the numbers. She said they will look at the new data and bring it to the School Committee. Cindy asked, why solar canopies and not something else? Stephanie stated the schools parking lots are large, open town properties and they are not being used to their fullest potential. Solar canopies are easy to put up and the solar companies, not the town, would be responsible for the maintenance of them.

Dave stated the Federal Government asks you to do something until they tell you to do something. We should get ahead of the curve on all these things before we don’t have a choice.

Nicholas stated the tax incentives for private companies were really good before but they are not as lucrative any more.

Charlie Myers stated he thinks we should go with wind power and not solar panels. He said solar panels in Jan, Feb, and March won’t produce much solar energy. The state wants us to go to electric heating. A wind turbine in Medway will give you 365 days of power.

6. **Discuss progress on the Eco-Event scheduled for September 25, 2022.**

Jason stated this event is being held after the town wide yard sale. Stephanie stated Marty might be able to get some volunteers. Marty can be available but Nicholas is not available. Fred is going to send Stephanie a flyer and she will send it to Cindy so she can circulate it***.***

**Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 11, 2022 Special Meeting.**

***Dave made a motion to approve the May 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes as amended. Wally seconded the motion and all the members stated they were in favor and they were approved.***

**Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 15, 2022.**

***Dave Made a motion to approve the June 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes as amended. Wally seconded the motion and all the members stated they were in favor and they were approved.***

* **Adjourn**

***Dave made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm. Jason seconded the motion and all members stated aye they were 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* |