

**Medway Energy & Sustainability Committee**

**Medway Middle School,**

**DPW Conference Room (Door 9)**

**45 Holliston Street, Medway MA 02053**

**January 22, 2020 7:00 PM**

**Members present:** Carey Bergeron, Lawrence Ellsworth, Alex Siekierski,

Kristen Rice, Jason Reposa, Stephanie Carlisle and Tracy Rozak, Recording Secretary

**Also present:** David Travalini, ComCom Chair

**Absent:** None

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* ***Larry called the meeting to order at 7:13pm.***
* **Report from the Chair**

• **New Business**

**Review MEI (Mass Energy Insight) Data**

Stephanie presented the MEI data from 2019 on the projector screen. This is all municipal utilities data that they have been tracking since the 2009 baseline year. The goal was to have a 20 percent energy reduction within 5 years. Stephanie stated Medway is growing and the fleet has doubled and they track all the gasoline and diesel. The schools are the top energy users.

The dashboard shows overall energy use and is drilled down by facility, buildings, open space, street lights, traffic lights vehicles, water & sewer. Stephanie stated the new DPW building is going to consolidate several buildings and will get rid of oil use and will use solar and electric. They will also be looking at the gymnasiums at the schools that use high wattage lights. Stephanie noted that the towns and schools are managed separately. The open space areas are mostly the parks. Heating and cooling are big areas to look at.

Stephanie reported that Eversource offers incentives and we are entering year 2 of their retrofit lighting program. Stephanie stated she met with Solect Energy and they recently presented to the superintendent of schools and will be putting together a proposal for solar canopies at the schools. There has been some concern about the students driving into the poles supporting the solar canopies. Dave mentioned they use the canopies at Lincoln/Sudbury and suggested we ask them how it’s been working for them. Alex will look into this.

The group discussed the pros of using net metering.

Stephanie stated that 25 percent of the renewable energy in the state comes fromthe waste to energy facility, Covanta SEMASS, in West Wareham. .

The group discussed the state bidding process for outsourcing work. It is intended to protect taxpayers against abuse. Sometimes the contractor will later say they didn’t anticipate certain things or the price of supplies went up which will increase the price.

Stephanie mentioned that the Senior Center was retrofitted for insulation and the data shows their energy use was almost cut in half. Alex asked if this information gets back to the town. These achievements should be promoted.

The group discussed the pros and cons of retrofitting (electrical / insulation) other town buildings versus constructing new buildings. Stephanie would like to have an audit of what we have now to be used as a new baseline. Stephanie stated the chiller uses the most electricity at the high school. Replacing this would be expensive but would save a huge amount of kilowatts.

The group discussed other ways to conserve energy costs such as consolidating fire resources with other towns. We should look at older buildings in town like the fire barn that are not used as much anymore. Carey stated our sole focus is not on being a green community as we have done other things to help the community. The way the green communities grant measure savings doesn’t take into account all related factors. The group discussed other ways to track the data that actually shows the savings we have done as a community. Carey stated we should be able to show potential money savings. It may cost a lot to buy a new chiller but you can calculate the potential savings in utility bills over the years. It may not be a cost savings upfront but a definite cost savings. Carey stated we have to look outside the box for ways to save money. The Selectmen may not like some of our suggestions but we are an advisory committee and it’s our job to advise them.

Carey suggested looking at the town of Natick as they actually reduced their energy consumption by 20 percent.. It would be great to have them come in and tell us what they did. The fact that there are not as many children in town as their used to be should factor in. Memorial, Burke and McGovern- can they be combined? What is the energy cost per student? Do the lights need to be on all the time or can they be on timers. Some buildings are kept open and heated around the clock. Should we reduce our energy in those buildings or replace with solar and battery backup. It probably makes more sense to go with solar energy. Why not make rules for some buildings. You cannot use x building after 6pm to save money on heat & lightening. Instead only use the buildings that are the most energy efficient. This would just involve more planning and logistics. Need to change the mindset of people. We have a more compelling argument with numbers and figures now. If the town doesn’t want to spend money to buy a new chiller than they have to be willing to save money in other ways.

The group discussed the possibility of having this committee meet twice per month instead of once to get more momentum. Alternatively, we could form subgroups or working groups. We would need to get at least two more committee members to help.

* **Ongoing Project Discussion**
* **Green Communities Grant Update**
* **Charles River Climate Compact update**

**• Action Items**

* Alex will reach out to Lincoln/Sudbury to see how the solar canopies have worked for them.
* **State of the Town report items**
* **Future topics / other business**
* **Temperature Set Point Policy**
* **Solar Panel Regulation**
* **Composting**
* **5 year plan**
* **Website update**

**• Adjourn**

***Larry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 pm. Alex seconded the motion and it was voted to approve 5-0-0.***

Respectfully submitted by,

Tracy Rozak

Recording Secretary

**Next meeting: Feb 19, 2020**