

# 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, Select Board Liaison

Bob Tucker, PEDB Liaison

Melissa Greenfield, School Committee Liaison

 Town of Medway

 Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Energy and Sustainability Committee

**July 21, 2021**

**Members present:**  Martin Dietrich, David Travalini, Carey Bergeron, Stephanie Carlisle, Melissa Greenfield

**Absent:**  Larry Ellsworth, Jason Reposa, Kristen Rice

**Public**: Tracy Stewart, Charlie Myers

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**Call to Order**

***Carey called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.***

**Discussion of Solar Array opportunities**

Charlie Myers offered public comment on the potential for adding solar canopies at the High School and Middle School parking lots. He strongly opposes solar canopies at the schools specifically the High School because he worked on the design of the building and believes the canopies will destroy the aesthetics of the property. He supports renewable energy but stated

there are other places to install canopies in town instead of the schools. He suggested the VFW. He is also concerned with the runoff from the panels. He is interested in the backup power for the schools and how it can get there. He is involved in the BESS discussions.

Dave said the climate is changing we can see the effects in the rising temperatures. It reached 120 degrees in Canada last month and Portland Maine saw 106 degree temperatures, and Boston is in the same boat. He says we are not at the point where we can use aesthetics as a reason not to pursue solar. He mentioned how climate change disproportionately affects people with lower income because they can’t move to cooler climate or away from the hazards. He said water management is an issue and can be addressed. He mentioned that people can’t see the school parking lot from the road.

Carey said she respects both opinions and there is value in everyone opinion.

Charlie mentioned Route 109 land across from the car dealership as an alternative location. Mentioned the need for backup power at police and fire stations should the grid go down. We should be looking into emergency back up at grocery stores which wasn’t included in the plan. Mentioned the need for offshore wind. Need to look into the asset Medway has with the substations.

Carey and Marty suggested that Charlie mention these points and ideas at the Master Plan Committee meetings as well.

Melissa said to have a conversation with the superintendent. She suggests having numbers ready for him, be able to talk about liability in terms of cars crashing into the posts or someone slipping on ice due to runoff in the winter, and how will maintain them.

Charlie said that if they get the panels make sure they put something in the contract that addresses lost power if the inverters fail.

Carey, Dave, and Marty said they would come to the superintendent meeting if needed.

**Draft Tree Preservation Bylaw discussion**

Dave said the Conservation Commission is creating a small working group in order to make progress on the draft bylaw.

**Athletic Turf Field End-of-Life Discussion**

Marty said we are not at the end of life discussion yet, but it is coming and wants to begin discussing the MESC position. He doesn’t care for turf in general and the kids don’t like playing on it. The components the fields are made of, its impact on drainage, it gets plowed off the hill, chemicals get into the water system – there are many things to consider and he wants to sort through them so we’re prepared to make a recommendation to the town in a couple years when Hanlon field is at end-of-life. They should also consider the maintenance cost verses generated revenue and how the turf will be disposed of at end-of-life. He said that the field was designed so it could be turned back into a grass field if the town chooses.

Tracy Stewart brought in two plastic baggies of turf field grasses as an example and wants Dave to show it to the Conservation Commission. Tracy said only 40% community use the fields and if we looked at the grass use it’s a loss. The turf creates a heat island effect. The field isn’t sustainable or financially responsible. ACL injuries increased. There was a study out of England showing the turf doesn’t support the athletes’ cleeks as well. The heat policy has been an issue.

She is asking the committee to be a participant in the agreement.

Dave said he doesn’t like grass but likes turf even less. He agrees it should be turned back into a grass field and we can plant trees around. He doesn’t think its generating as much revenue as they think. Would like to get rid tomorrow. He is concerned with the chemicals the field is made of, the impacts of the heat island, increased injuries. He said there will be opposition because they say the field generates money in the winter time when they rent it.

Marty thinks the town should hire a professional who understands the different variables and can offer an objective recommendation and an unbiased opinion.

Carey said that we have to keep in mind we are an advisory committee and to keep in perspective what the committee is as we come up with a recommendation. She doesn’t think the committee is in the position to make a recommendation based on finance. She supports the idea of having an expert.

Tracy said they used the crumb rubber because Michael Blumenthal, a Rubber Manufacturers Associate, came to a public forum and said there is no problem with crumb rubber and the environment. Since the late 1990s, he worked on the scrap tire problem and said they can be a replacement for fields, playgrounds and garden mulch. You can see the piles in Ashland rolled up with crumb rubber – it can’t be recycled. The tire industry is just kicking the can down and now it’s not the industry’s problem it’s the communities’ problem.

She circulated pictures of the fields after plowing and the crumb rubber is in the drainage system. She mentioned the article about a chemical found in tires called 6PPD which has been killing salmon. She is concerned that for people with private wells and the town’s aquifer – poisoning the water supply. Suggested looking into the Toxic Use Reduction grant to organically treat the waste - Rachel Massey ph.d.

Carey agrees that it is important to have a discussion on how the committee wants to move forward.

**Report from the Chair**

Carey tabled the Master Plan Committee discussion until the August meeting. Stephanie emailed the slides Carey planned on presenting so members can review individually as well.

Carey reported that Larry has resigned from the MESC. Stephanie to find out the committee’s membership and quorum requirements.

**Report from Subcommittees**

 **Scholarship**

 Marty created a rubric and it was distributed at the meeting and electronically. This discussion was tabled for the August meeting as well.

**Report from Staff Contact**

Discussion on stormwater education, EV charging stations at Choate and Oakland park update, and Green Communities update was tabled to the August meeting.

**Housekeeping**

No vote on June 2021 meeting minutes.

**Adjourn**

***Carey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 pm. Marty seconded the motion and all were in favor.***