

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
Andy Rodenhiser, PEDB Liaison
Preston Gales, School Committee Liaison



Town of Medway
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING
August 16, 2023 – 6:30 pm



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

Absent: Nicholas Fair, Stephanie Carlisle

Also Present: Preston Gales -School Committee liaison, Charlie Myers and Oliver Knoll were present for the meeting.

Call to Order

Martin called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Public Comments

There were no public comments

Review draft newsletter

Dave T. mentioned that there is an organization called rewiringofamerica.org that shows you how much you could save by doing home energy improvements. Some information like this might be interesting for the newsletter. Jason suggested Stephanie make sure to test the newsletter in different formats because the word format can shift in different browsers. **Action Item- Jason will contact Stephanie about how to do this.**

Discuss potential for solar at Medway Grid.

Dave T. stated there is a meeting scheduled for tomorrow night. The only concern the Conservation Commission has is about firefighting because the area is near a wetland and retention basin. **Action Item - Dave T. will talk to the Fire Chief about this.**

Dave T. stated he would like the Energy & Sustainability Committee to get in on the host agreement so that some portion of the money would go to solar panels on public buildings. Dave would like to talk to Michael Boynton, Town Manger about this and if he is on board, maybe speak to the Select Board. Martin suggested that part of the tax revenue could be put in a fund for

solar projects such as solar panels on public buildings. **Action Item- Dave will talk to Michael Boynton about the future BESS Project.**

Brainstorm priority projects for the upcoming year.

The committee members discussed priority projects for next year and they are as follows.

Dave T. would like to still pursue putting solar canopies on the school roofs, a town hall meeting to discuss the benefits of the Inflation Reduction Act and electric buses.

Dave F. suggested doing more with storm water run-off, more awareness, additional outreach, go out and clean residential storm drains.

Preston suggested smaller solar arrays and small scale battery storage for schools and DPW, more outreach.

Jason suggested composting at schools, look into changing the code in Medway for new commercial buildings to include solar panels; stretch code plus. He also suggested creating a new program in schools to get the middle school to take field trips to recycling centers and waste treatment plants, doing more with the Community Garden, meeting with the Select Board more frequently and the MESC Scholarship for next year.

Wally suggested using more solar at the Community Garden, having 2 meetings per year devoted just to discussing new technologies that could benefit the town, directed events such as having an energy specialist come out and talk to students about different energy projects. Wally asked about televising our MESC meetings. Martin stated there are only two buildings in town that have the ability to do that. Wally suggested maybe just televise 1-2 meetings per year when we meet about big issues such as battery storage.

Charlie suggested a review of zoning of town buildings, having an annual meeting with the Clean Energy Center, having a speaker from Green Communities come out once per year for a discussion, creating an inventory of emergency power services, outreach to neighboring towns; if the battery and energy storage plan comes to pass most of it will be located in Bellingham.

Oliver suggested making the schools more energy efficient, having a movie night and watching a movie about sustainability, having a movie/ snack night at Thayer House.

Action Item- Martin will compile a list of all the suggestions and send out to all the MESC members. Committee members should review the list before the next meeting and choose their top 5 priorities and they will be discussed at the next meeting.

Discuss Recycling Event on September 24, 2023.

Martin stated Stephanie will have more details about it but she would like committee members to be there. There is no charge for town residents. The Green Team will be there and Ever Source will be taking dehumidifiers and Habitat for Humanity will be collecting clothing.

Jason stated the traffic flow was a bit crazy last year so this year they are going to move the large dumpster to the gravel to help the flow of traffic.

Report from Chair

Martin stated that Capital Planning for FY 24 has started. This committee looks at everything that departments and committees ask for. We can put items on the list but we have to our list solidified by the next meeting. MESC members should think about things they would like to add to the list and we will discuss at the next meeting. **Action Item -Martin will send the committee members some information about what type of items can go under capital improvements and what items are on the list already.**

Report from Sustainability Coordinator

McGovern roof solar array update. Martin stated Solect Energy sent Armand Pires, Superintendent of Schools a letter of intent.

Community Choice Aggregation Program update. Martin stated the town is on board but there is a lot of red tape to go through.

Introduce the Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan and request comments. Martin stated this was introduced at a Select Board meeting and there will be an opportunity for comments at a future meeting.

Medway Police Plug-In hybrid and infrastructure update. Martin stated there is no update at this time.

Housekeeping

Charlie stated the Planning Board is going to review the town bylaws for correct language.

Dave T. mentioned that he and Stephanie will be going to the Alt Wheels Expo (alternative transportation).

No meeting minutes were approved at this meeting.

Adjourn

Jason made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 pm. Wally seconded the motion and all the members stated aye they were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tracy Rozak