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# Board Members

Carey Bergeron, Chair

Lawrence Ellsworth, Member

Alex Siekierski, Member

Kristen Rice, Member

Jason Reposa, Member

Martin Dietrich, Member

Stephanie Carlisle, DPW Staff Contact

John Foresto, Bd Slctmn Liaison

Bob Tucker, PEDB Liaison

## Energy and Sustainability Committee

## Town of Medway

### Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**September 2, 2020 - 7:00 PM**

Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, and the Governor’s Orders imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, no in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted at this meeting. Committee members may be participating remotely. For public meetings, access via Microsoft Teams is provided for the required opportunity for public participation. Please use this link to access the meeting: [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZmU2MzdhMzMtZjIwOS00OTMxLWIzMTktNzQ0ZWYzNWNjMTJl%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%224952c1e3-a698-42bd-a50a-1b06d5241e32%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%226dbc8625-7650-47c6-a71e-8dad4f4d1691%22%7d).

# **Members present:** Carey Bergeron, Stephanie Carlisle, Jason Reposa, Martin Dietrich, Tracy Rozak, Recording Secretary

**Also present:** David Travalini, Fred Cullen from Green Team and Nathan from MI Box

# **Absent:** Alex Siekierski, Kristen Rice

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**Call to Order**

Carey called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

**Public Comments/ Guest Speakers**

Fred Cullen from the Green Team was present for the meeting and stated he is doing a pilot program in Holliston that takes a large box (MI Box) and places it in the center of town and people donate different items for different charities. An email goes out and states what things can be accepted and they have staff monitoring the items dropped off and then the box is delivered to the charitable sites. The items are quarantined for a few days due to COVID. They have done this in several towns and it has been very successful. The MI Box cost for Grafton was $175 which includes two staff people to monitor the drop offs. He is really interested in promoting awareness of recycling and re-use programs. The Town of Medfield has a box going on public property and it had to go through the DPW Director.

The group discussed possible locations like the fire station or the VFW. Fred stated you can go to the Green Team junk removal Face Book page and you can watch videos that show the items being delivered to the charities. Carey asked if there is a way to quantify how much stuff has been diverted/re-used instead of going to the dump. This could be estimated by weight of the MI Box. Fred chooses the charities by recommendation by Mass DEP. Fred stated he is also open to suggestion for charities if they have some in mind.

Nathan from MI Box was present and stated they really benefit from the advertising of their boxes in the communities. Martin asked what happens if MI Box is so popular that the box fills up quickly. They can send more boxes if needed. There are 3 MI Boxes, one in Burlington, Worcester and Southern Mass. Nathan is in charge of the Southern Mass MI Box.

Larry would like to see this expand over time rather than a onetime event. He stated we could start with house hold items then furniture or clothing or books. Carey stated they will talk to some other committees in town and will be in touch. Fred will send the information in writing to Stephanie.

**Report from the Chair**

* Report from Board of Health meeting

Carey stated the Board of Health was concerned about the timing and they would like to revisit this is November and probably will push back the January 27th date.

**Report from Subcommittees**

* Social media posts for residents and businesses on the new Plastic Bag Reduction Bylaw

Stephanie stated Kristen made the social media posts and is waiting for Michael’s approval of the messaging before it goes out. Jason asked if Medway has a special recycling for compostable plastic bags. Dave stated they take a really long time to decompose. Carey stated there is a provision where a business could ask for a waiver if they wanted to use compostable plastic bags.

* Back up material for the webpage regarding the Plastic Bag Reduction Bylaw

Not Discussed

**New business discussions**

* Partnering with Medway Business Council, Communications Director, and Board of Health to roll out the Plastic Bag Reduction Bylaw

The Medway Business Council will have a meeting on September 16th from 5-7 pm. They are having a cook out and invited the MESC committee to join them. Stephanie and Martin will attend the meeting.

* Black Earth composting program

Jason stated he contacted Black Earth, a nation-wide composting service. They would need at least 40 residents to sign up. We are at about 22 now. Black Earth sent him some ready- made copy they have used in the past for social media posts. Jason thinks it looks a little wordy. Maybe we could take a look at it and modify if needed. Carey stated we could put something on social media about the various places to divert household items and include Black Earth on the list. Stephanie stated that she supports the Black Earth initiative and believes diverting food waste from the waste stream is important. MESC will need to get approval from the Town Managers office to post about the company on social media.

* New social media campaign ideas

Stephanie stated Sandy would like to hear MESC’s social media ideas on other sustainability topics. . The committee will discuss this more at the next meeting.

* **Housekeeping**
* Approval of June 2020

No meeting minutes were approved at this meeting.

* Confirm fall 2020 schedule

Jason stated sub committees tend to start out strong and then tend to fizzle out. Carey stated in the past they used to have subcommittees just for action items. Dave stated that once a subcommittee brings an item to the MESC meeting then the subcommittee can end and it will be in the hands of the MESC committee.

The committee will discuss the schedule at the next meeting when Kristen is back. Larry stated Glen would like to attend our next meeting.

* **Adjourn**

Martin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:36pm. Jason seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tracy Rozak

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| **Upcoming Medway Energy & Sustainability Committee Meetings**  *Meetings are typically the third Wednesday of the month*  *Next Meeting : September 16, 2020 -7:00pm* |