

# **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**

**Bob Tucker, PEDB Liaison**

**Cindy Sullivan, School Committee Liaison**

Town of Medway

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Energy and Sustainability Committee Meeting

September 21,-20022 - 7:00 pm

Medway Middle School

Department of Public Works (DPW)

Conference Room

**Members present:**  David Travalini, Martin Dietrich, Jason Reposa, Nicholas Fair, Dave Fitzgerald Stephanie Carlisle and Tracy Rozak, Recording Secretary.

**Also Present:**  Charlie Myers, Poongs Muthukumaran

**Absent:**  Wally Long,

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* **Call to Order**

***Martin called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm***

* **Public Comments**

Charlie Myers stated he wants to bring an update to the battery storage conversation. Poongs Muthukumaran stated he was just here to observe the meeting.

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

***Jason made a motion to elect Martin Dietrich as Chair and Nick Fair as Vice Chair of the Medway Energy and Sustainability Committee (MESC) for a period of one year. Dave Fitzgerald seconded the motion and all members stated aye they were in favor and it was approved.***

**Review Select Board’s comments to the Committee at their August 21, 2022 meeting and discuss next steps focusing on the top priority projects for FY23.**

Dave T. stated he, Nick and Marty met with the Select Board and updated them on what we have been working on and what they would like us to focus on. Stephanie stated she reached out to Chief Kingsbury and mentioned that we would like discuss replacing older vehicles with Electric Vehicles at a further date. **Action item: Stephanie and Dave T. will meet with the Police and Fire Departments to discuss replacing their older vehicles with Electric Vehicles (EV) when it is time to replace vehicles.**

Charlie mentioned there will be a conference on Oct 4th at the Four Points Sheridan. “ALT Wheels” will be there and representatives from all Electric Vehicle companies, a panel with National Grid and the State will be there. Charlie suggested it would be a good to have a MESC member there. **Action: Stephanie is going to look into the details of the ALT meeting and send an invite to committee members.**

Dave T. stated they talked to the Select Board about putting a solar canopy at one of the smaller town owned parks. The Select Board was receptive to the idea. Dave T. stated the next step would be to contact a company like Ameresco, Inc. to see what the cost would be.

Stephanie stated we are still moving forward with the schools. She has the latest proposal from Solect Energy for the Medway Public Schools dated September 13, 2022. Nick asked if we could invite Solect Energy to one of our meetings to go over the proposal in person. Stephanie stated she can invite them to a meeting. **Action item: Stephanie will send this proposal out to the committee members and invite Solect Energy to our next meeting.**

Stephanie will put together a list of all the possible locations, roofs, buying or power purchase agreement (PPA) and ask them if we can use Power Options or does it have to go out to bid. Dave T. stated he would like to meet with the Select Board again in November and every three months on a regular basis. Nick stated the Select Board did not need any input from the MESC on the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Host agreement at this point. **Action item for next agenda- Dave T. will make a list of items to discuss at the November Select Board meeting. Action item: Nick will put together bullet points for Solect Energy.**

**Provide comments on the Medway Grid, LLC. and Town of Medway BESS Host Community Agreement.**

Charlie stated the town has applied for intervener status. No one has been designated as an intervener at this time. The applicant applied to the state and there is an environmental notification form (ENF) application with about 40 questions. The applicant sent in the response a week and half ago. He highlighted three areas of concern; Emissions, thermal calculations and contamination. Charlie stated the applicant has no contract with anyone for renewable energy and they rely on the grid. So the emissions portion remains undefined. There was a brief discussion about megawatts of power.

Charlie stated the secretary asked if the exhaust fans generate a heat island above the atmosphere above the site. They should be able to generate thermal calculations for this but they didn’t really answer the question.

Charlie stated the secretary asked about potential contamination, and they responded a pH of 6 but with no chemistry. Medway has a lot of wetlands so this is concerning. Charlie has a 3rd party analysis of potential chemistries that could be in the run-off. There was a brief discussion about what happens if there is a fire. Charlie stated there was a recent 17 hour thermal event in California caused by a mega pack. The mega pack that caused the fire is only half the size of the proposed mega pack for Medway. Charlie sent this information to Chief Lynch. The Chief stated he recently had training on lithium batteries, mostly for hover boards but he is concerned about the volume available to the town. He wants to discuss this further with Medway Grid and also talk to the Water Department about secondary water sources if needed.

Nick asked about protocols for other BESS sites and would it be applicable to our town.

Charlie stated single environmental impact report (SEIR) for both sites is on the website and public comments are due by October 11, 2022.

Charlie stated there is an article on the town warrant to purchase the Medway Block property to put new town buildings on. We night want to proactively go to the Select Board about this and have some input on the design.

Charlie introduced Poongs Muthukumaran and stated he could be a great resource for the MESC Committee. Poongs stated he is a Clinical Engineer for a lithium battery manufacturing company. Poongs stated it not a question of “if” there will be a fire but “when” there will be a fire because there will be a fire at some point. Poongs stated this is a good energy project but not a renewable energy project. There was a brief discussion about how batteries supply the grid with energy during the day discharge at night. They are not providing much renewable energy.

Charlie stated we need to put the concerns out there. The town of Medway needs to be sure they understand about heat islands, fire suppression, safety and environmental contamination issues. There will be change over at the state level after the election.

Dave T. stated he is concerned about dousing a fire with a ton of water that will get contaminated and then go into the wetlands. When this project comes before the Conservation Committee, they will need to be aware and understand all of the potential safety concerns for the wetlands.

Charlie stated he thinks we should tell the Select Board we support battery energy storage. However, for any projects that come into Medway we would want to see discussions about safety features, the environmental features, fire water suppression, and a heat island discussion. We should ask that some of the money that the town is going to receive should be put aside for renewable energy projects.

**Discuss updates on the potential solar projects.**

Stephanie stated we have proposals for the High School and Middle School canopies, and Burke-Memorial and McGovern roofs using Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) program block 7 and 8. Memorial is the oldest roof and is gravel. Nick stated there is savings in doing rooftops instead of canopies. Martin stated even though we have a good rate today we won’t have as good a rate in three years. Martin stated we need to explain the costs in simple terms and visuals. **Action item: Nick will create a draft cost analysis and send it to the other members for feedback.**

**Agenda item for next month- When should we meet with the Planning Board and what to discuss.**

**Finalize the logistics for the Eco-Event scheduled for September 25, 2022.**

The Eco Event starts at 10 am and goes until 1pm. We need to be there by 9:30 ish to set up. Dave T, Jason, Marty will be there to help. Dave F. will be there around noon to help with the break down/clean up.

**Housekeeping**

* **Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 17, 2022**

***Dave T. made a motion to approve the August 17, 2022 meeting minutes as amended. Nick seconded the motion and all members stated aye they were in favor and they were approved.***

* **Adjourn**

***Dave T. made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 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* |