



MELROSE ENERGY COMMISSION Meeting Minutes **APPROVED 1/27/2022**

Date/Time: Thursday, November 18, 2021 7:00 pm

Location: Webex Meeting

Attendees: Susan Baron, David Bliss, Doug Dick, Martha Grover, Ellen Katz, Gary Lamothe, Susan Murphy, Lori Timmermann, Janine Venuti

Presiding: Gary Lamothe

Secretary: David Bliss (acting)

Approve October 28 meeting minutes: Motion to accept meeting minutes. Seconded. Discussion - No changes, Motion approved.

MassEnergize Update (Gary)

Update – Zero waste MEC and ped bike are on board. Waiting to meet with Paul Brodeur regarding funding from outside MEC budget. Assuming that budget is forthcoming we will need volunteers to help set up site template. Hopefully Paul can take it out of community outreach fund, Planning Dept and/or split cost with MEC budget.

MassEnergize has monthly meetings that are very helpful. It is not magic, substantial effort from MEC members is needed including setup and outreach with creative ideas of how to take action.

Sustainability Manager Update (Martha)

Net Zero Action Plan

- MAPC working on final graphic design and edits to implementation plan – waiting on new draft
- Exploring funding options for key initial actions including Energize Melrose, Energy Coach, and creation of NZ Action Implementation Task Force and NZ building code adoption with Mayor's Office

Next Up: Share draft with key reviewers, interested MEC members, Three Planning Board members. Apply to MassSave Community First program for 2022?

Discussion

- *Denise Gaffey is reviewing.*
- *Martha will distribute to the MEC group*
- *Includes action items High priority items are first year*
- *Energy coach from NGRID funding*
- *Optional NZ stretch code building code out for public comment (opt-in)*
- *Process for Previous (original) adoption of stretch code*

- *Paul Johnson follows code that as it comes (no issues expected)*
- *Developers and city council key stakeholders*
- *Key reviewers Ben Butterworth and Paul Ormond*
- *Planning board is swamped - best strategy may be to approach 3 PB members*
- *What is Community First? A: Municipalities can target goals meaningful for their community – i.e. help electrify up to \$60k each yr for 3 yrs*
- *CF partnership – first up Social Justice communities*
- *Smaller 2nd round potential funding for energy coach Need something like a monthly drop-in event (coffee?) to answer questions from citizens*
- *Maybe share resources with another community - liaison with community Someone needs to support the selected person to get up and running*

Melrose Community Power

- All of the resident questions at the MCP Info Session were about transitioning off oil – we need an Energy Coach!

Next Up: OptUp Outreach Campaign with Good Energy and MEC?

Discussion

- *Public meeting – went well; no specific problems with MCP Full range of participants*
- *Need someone who is dedicated to talking with residents (Energy coach)*

Additional discussion (following Energy Manager Report)

- *Letter and social media messaging went out Nov 1st and triggered quite a few opt-ups (80 optups late Oct – Mid Nov) Now up to 216 total from initial 54 before campaign.*
- *Signs – will put some out soon – About 30 signs left.*

Green Communities

- Annual Report complete – 11% energy use reduction from 2009 baseline (compares with 18.3% in FY20, 11.4% in FY19, 9.4% in FY18)
- Talking with National Grid about updating our Energy Reduction Plan with a Strategic Energy Plan that focuses on building electrification

Next Up: Apply for the next round

Discussion

- *FY 15 was higher energy use than 2009 Baseline year number of bldgs. still on oil.*
- *Energy Reduction Plan from 2009 could use update NG may help out to look at electrification*

Fleet and EV Charging

- All 15 new chargers installed on 9 poles
- Traffic Commission approved EV Parking at all locations – stencil and signs soon

- Great Globe article <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2021/11/11/business/national-grid-tests-pole-mounted-electric-car-chargers-melrose/>

Next Up: Adopt EV First Policy for municipal fleet. Improve wayfinding and signage to increase awareness.

Discussion

- Last 4 of 15chargers installed on 11/16.
- Need to draft EV first policy.

MVP Action Grant Project – Green Building Design Guidelines

- Creating Advisory Group and community engagement process

Next Up: Identify two members for Advisory Group from Melrose

Discussion

- Developing voluntary green bldg. guidelines for Melrose/Malden/Medford – community advisory group to advise MG Potential stipend 25-40 hrs between now and June ~ \$2,000 available
- City bldgs. should be included

Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

- Initiating update to 2019 CIP to identify and prioritize capital projects of more than \$25,000

Next Up: Solicit CIP project priorities from all departments

Discussion

- CIP includes vehicles – EV first policy important (looking at Concord policy as model). Fire Chief Collina – looking for new vehicle, possibly Ford interceptor hybrid.

(End of Energy Manager Report and Discussion)

New Business - Planning for 2022

The following were put on the table:

- MassEnergize - Strategize over actions
- Energy Coach onboarding
- Passing NZ Code
- Work with elected officials for financial support. One or more meetings generally required.
- Publicity for new MassSave program, what kind of retrofits can be more easily pursued?
- MEC should be vehicle for driving personal passions but each passion must have an advocate. Should individuals take on their own projects?

- Some people attend a few meetings and then drop MEC attendance. Aside from meetings, individuals could be asked to execute targeted efforts.
- Regular column in Melrose weekly like ZW Melrose is doing? “MEC Minute”. Susan B may draft a few. Ideas include MassSave audit, Light bulbs, smart power strips, ground source heat pumps.
- Transportation planning – MEC could promote e-bikes together with EV’s.

Other new and continuing business

- Mem hall – Oct/Nov Gale Associates Originally \$2.3 M design and construct. Through 50% Design actual analysis closer to \$3M. Now not replacing roof (now no solar) patching only - 50% design. Addressing structural damage. DB to schedule meeting with Vonnie Reis.
- Webinar – Martha (?) reported on net zero playbook (Arlington, Natick) Barret webinar was fantastic! News reports did not capture final document. Brings it down to community groups. MassEnergize is a key component.
COP 26 discussion was discouraging to some. Tufts energy group sent 20+ people.
- Final push for EV survey (3 weeks).

Adjourned at 8:45pm (est.) – Next Meeting Thursday January 26th @ 7:00 pm