

Board Members
Martin Dietrich, Chair
Wally Long, Vice-Chair
Jason Reposa, Member
David Travalini, Member
David Fitzgerald, Member
Stephanie Carlisle, DPW Staff Contact
Frank Rossi, Bd Scltmn Liaison
Andy Rodenheiser, PEDB Liaison
Preston Gales, School Liason



Town of Medway
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING
January 24, 2024– 6:30 pm



Members present: Martin Dietrich, Dave Fitzgerald, Wally Long
David Travalini and Stephanie Carlisle

Absent: Jason Reposa

Call to Order

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

Public Comments

There were none.

1. Discussion: FY23 Energy Use and Cost Data from Green Communities Annual Report.

Stephanie showed a data table on the screen and stated last year we were up 11 percent in energy usage and this was because of increasing fuel consumption and the natural gas issue last August in the Middle School building. Stephanie stated this data is pulled from Eversource. She has not manually entered the data for FY24 yet, maybe by the next meeting she will have more of an update. Wally asked why there was a big spike in 2021. Stephanie stated that was due to COVID ventilation requirements and simultaneous heating. Stephanie stated we have many more town vehicles as the fleet has been expanding. There has also been an increase in students and the aging population. Stephanie stated she can update this chart quarterly and send it to the committee so they can stay on top of the numbers.

2. Discussion: Progress on the 3 key priorities for 2024

Solar Canopies, Stormwater Education, Community Engagement

Martin stated we have the electrification study going on at the senior center. Stephanie stated the next 6 months will be busy for stormwater education and community education because of upcoming events such as Earth Day, Pride Day and Clean Sweep Day etc. Stephanie asked if we want to form a team for Clean Sweep Day. Dave T. and

Martin stated they are already part of other teams. Wally suggested making a short flyer that we could hand out to Clean Sweep participants. Stephanie asked if they should consider partnering with another committee like the Open Space Committee. Dave T. stated we need to come up with a plan to promote the solar canopies. Martin stated we can talk to people and hand out information at the upcoming public events. Maybe we could get Solect, Mass Save, Medway Community Farm or Black Earth to put up a tent at these events and we could join in with them. Wally suggested a small game or token to give to kids like a solar calculator. **Action item: Stephanie will put together a list of materials needed for these events so we will be ready.**

Action Item: Stephanie will find out if the results of the electrification study at the senior center are ready yet.

3. Discussion: Winter newsletter metrics and ways to improve community outreach.

Dave T. stated he'd like to see something in one of the newsletters about how to build a rain garden. Other suggestions were landscaping tips, using native plants, ways to deal with drought and using rain barrels.

Stephanie stated she did receive some responses for improving community outreach. Twenty four people responded (about 12 percent). Martin stated they could put something on the web page stating if you would like to get updates, please subscribe here or use a QR code. **Action: Ask Jason to work on a QR code that goes to a google document to collect their information.**

4. Discussion: Schedule annual Recycling and Energy Drive in September and brainstorm outreach materials.

Stephanie stated the Recycling and Energy drive will be on September 29, 2024. This is the day after the town yard sale. The late summer newsletter should include everything people need to know about the Recycling Drive.

5. Discussion: Consider if the Committee has any articles to propose for the warrant.

After a brief discussion the committee decided to put creating a fund and what it will be used for on the warrant article. Martin will see if there is still time to get this on the warrant for the next town meeting. How and when it will be funded can be discussed at another time. There was a brief discussion about what kinds of things they envision the fund money being used for. Some of the items were: Small solar canopies and projects, battery storage, stormwater management, insulation for the schools etc.

6. Discussion: Presentation to Finance Committee during their February meeting.

Martin stated the MESC is scheduled to give a small presentation on February 12th. Martin and Wally will attend.

7. Discussion: Recycling and composting in schools and Town.

Dave T. stated he asked Dayna about speaking at a PTO meeting. Dayna stated she would be in favor of doing that but they have not scheduled a date yet.

Report from Chair

Committee budget increase request.

Martin stated he does not have an update at this time.

Report from Sustainability Coordinator

1. McGovern solar array update.

Stephanie stated McGovern is going to require upgrades to the transformer which are sizable which would increase the PPA rate. In addition, some of the roof sections are not compatible for solar canopies. This has reduced the size of the system they can use. The cost of energy has increased so the incentives have decreased. **Action Items: Marty will reach out to Armand Pires, Superintendent to see if they have given any more thought to using solar panels.**

2. Recycling and composting update.

Stephanie stated she learned the town can promote using Black Earth as a preferred vendor as they are exempt from the procurement laws. Dave T. suggested sharing a booth with Black Earth at Earth Day. Martin asked Stephanie for her list of other vendors. Stephanie shared a chart that showed the amount of recycling and compost data per household in Medway and the surrounding towns. It would be interesting to see what the other towns are doing differently. Stephanie mentioned there is a useful website called Recyclopeda which is a database that tells you what items can and cannot be recycled. **Action Item -Stephanie will send the committee members the link to their website.**

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Approval of December 20, 2023, meeting minutes as amended.

Dave T. made a motion to approve the December 20, 2023 meeting minutes as amended. Wally seconded the motion and all the members stated they were in favor and the minutes were approved

Adjourn

Dave. T. made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm. Wally seconded the motion and all the members stated they were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,
Tracy Rozak