

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 Sclctmn Liaison
Andy Rodenheiser, PEDB Liaison
Preston Gales, School Liaison



Town of Medway
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Medway Middle School 45 Holliston Street Door 8
April 17, 2024, 2024– 7:00 pm



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

Also present: Tracy Stewart

Absent: Jason Reposa

Call to Order

Martin called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Public Comments

See below.

Action Items

1. Discussion: Progress on the 3 key priorities for 2024 (Solar Canopies, Stormwater Education, and Community Engagement).

Solar Canopies- Stephanie stated she sent the report from Rise to the committee members. She stated the big take away was air to water heat pumps are better technology because of the redundancy in the systems. They did a preliminary cost estimate range from \$500,000 - \$600,000. It did not include federal or state rebates/incentive or grant opportunities. We could add solar to Oakland parking lot and that would help to subsidize some of those costs. The power produced by solar would be net metered to the senior center. This part of project could be done on its own then we could net meter it to wherever we wanted to. Rise stated this building was one of the best buildings for retrofit because of the oil conversion. Marty suggested we give Michael Boynton the whole report to review and then go to the Select Board with our recommendations. Next steps- Martin stated we need to know if this is something we can put on the warrant- do they want us to continue with this and buy it outright and not enter into a power purchase agreement (PPA.) We can give them our recommendations

with a cost estimate. For our next meeting, we should summarize the recommendations from the report.

Stormwater- Stephanie reported that we were going to do some roadwork to reduce the width but there was some pushback so we might need to do more stormwater education. Maybe send out a postcard size mailer out to residents with some key points to raise awareness.

Public Comments- Tracy Stewart from the Democratic Committee was present for the meeting and stated at their last meeting they had an excellent presentation about stormwater management and impervious services and what residents can do to eliminate impervious services. This was a recorded zoom session but she will get the video presentation and we might be able to take clips from it with key points. Tracy offered to use her expertise to help us with marketing materials. Wally will look into this.

Community Engagement

-Meeting with other boards and committees

Stephanie stated this was something we wanted to start doing. Dave T. volunteered to work with and attend the Facilities Review Committee. This involves going to a meeting once in a while and bring sustainable ideas to them. Dave T. stated it might be useful to have a liaison with the Planning Committee. Stephanie stated the Open Space Committee might be a good one. Other committees to consider are the Bylaw Review Committee, CIPC, Open Space, and Parks & Rec. **Action: Marty asked for each committee member to think about which committee they might want to connect with.**

-Medway Parent Teacher Organization (MPTO)

Dave T. stated one of the Conservation Commission members, Dayna Gill is really interested in recycling and she went to a parent teacher meeting and spoke with the Facilities Manager that stated that everything is tossed into a bag and then they recycle but Dave T. does not think this actually happens. Dayna is going to try to work with MPTO. Tracy Stewart stated curbside intermingle goes to Casella then to the processing plant in Dundee Michigan which is 630 miles away. This much transportation is not really sustainable.

-Facilities Committee participation

a. Create a Medway Energy and Sustainability Facebook profile.

Stephanie recommends a Facebook profile but not a page- a post could be shared to other sites. Wally stated he could do the same thing for an Instagram account or twitter.

b. Expert speakers for events.

Wally is still working into this and will have an update for the next meeting.

c. Spring newsletter engagement metrics.

Stephanie is still working on this.

Public Comment- Tracy Stewart was present for the meeting and stated there is a town warrant article in May for a replacement field at the Hanlon field (the main high school field). Tracy stated from a fiscal and sustainability standpoint this does not make any sense. This field has been replaced three times already. She has kept detailed records of rentals and revenue and what goes into the revolving account. We do not have the money in the account for the replacement field. The rentals of the field is barely local tax payer use as most is used by private outside groups. It does not seem fair for taxpayers to be paying for these fields. Tracy stated engineered well maintained grass is fiscally more affordable and sustainable. Hanlon Field uses tire crumb and a shock pad they claim uses less tire crumb. These shock pads have not been proven. They say they can be recycled but we don't know this because it has not been done before. Tracy brought information to the Select Board and she has a renowned turf grass expert willing to consult on it. Tracy stated this is not just a Medway problem but everywhere. Wally asked Tracy how we as a committee can help her. Tracy stated we could come to the town meeting and vote. She would also like a letter of non-support of the turf field from us. Marty stated the revenue from the field rental didn't go into a fund but was put into an operating budget to pay for the parks. **Action: Marty stated he would like a short summary from Tracy and he would be happy to advise the Select Board that a new turf field is not fiscally responsible or sustainable. Wally also volunteered to attend the meetings and speak as a private citizen.**

Tracy also stated there are a lot of questions about the amount of electricity use at the fields. The lights are on all the time even if there are not games going on. The bond we borrowed for the last field is still not paid for.

2. Discussion: Upcoming events to attend as a committee and outreach materials.

A. Medway Community Farm Earth Day: Saturday, April 20th 10am–1pm (rain date April 21)

Stephanie is going to get the tent, tables, chairs and the banner. She can drop off the day before or the day of the event. She can use the same QR code from last year. The little saplings came in – Conservation and the DPW ordered a 100 winterberry and 100 white oak. She reached out to Black Earth and they stated they cannot make it. Wally, Marty and Stephanie will be attending the event.

B. Medway Pride Day: Saturday, May 18th 10am – 2pm

Stephanie stated they will use the same set up as Earth Day. Black Earth cannot come. Wally will keep his eye out for reusable water balloons. We still have a compost bin from last year to raffle off. We can also raffle off a gift card to the community farm.

3. Discussion: Begin drafting language for an Energy and Sustainability Fund.

Marty stated he spoke to Michael Boynton who stated we do not have to create a sustainability fund. Instead, as we are negotiating host agreements for future projects, Medway will utilize advice from MESC to include funding for various projects and earmarked money targeted at certain sustainable projects (e.g. solar, battery, etc.).

4. Discussion: Exploration of “Mini-Forest” opportunity at Idylbrook Park.

Dave T. stated that Jim Wickis from the Trail Committee asked the Conservation Committee if they could remove invasives from some areas in Idylbrook Park. There is some money available in the tree fund and a couple developers are going to contribute additional money. Dave T. stated he took a field trip with members of Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee, the Conservation Agent (Bridget Graziano), Sustainability Coordinator (Stephanie Carlisle, Planning Coordinator (Jeremy Thompson) and Tree Warden (Steve Carew). They looked at an area behind the home base area near one of the trails and an area closer to the parking lot that has a lot of invasives.

Dave T. explained the process of creating a mini forest involves removing the invasives, put in crushed cardboard, then have the Garden Club and the Girl/Boy Scouts plant native plants and do regular weeding for a few years and then it will turn into a self - sustaining micro forest. Dave T. thinks the Energy & Sustainability committee should gather more information, talk to the town of Natick or Cambridge who has done this before and find out what is needed and get a cost estimate to get it up and running. Marty thinks it is fine for us to gather the information but then Conservation or the DPW would take over. Marty does not think this committee should be overseeing it or managing it. Dave T. will continue to work on this.

• Report from Chair

1. Update: Committee budget increase request.

Marty stated the budget of \$1,000 has been included in the town proposal for FY 2025; need to wait until town meeting for approval.

• Report from Sustainability Coordinator

1. Update: Quarterly energy consumption report.

Stephanie stated she has most of the data but will have more for the next meeting.

2. Update: Town Solid Waste and Recycling Program

Stephanie stated they recently did an impromptu mini recycling audit on a mile long section of Village Street. They “Oops tagged” 17 recycle bins which is about forty percent of the off the bins audited. They saw shoes, bagged recycling, large styrofoam pieces, tissues, food etc. in the recycling bins. We talked to Lawrence Waste and asked them to report back more as a large number of people are not using the yellow bags. Stephanie explained residents get a warning letter the first time with a picture of the non-compliance and then there is a fine if it happens again.

a. School trash and recycling

Stephanie stated they had to schedule a second trash pick- up for McGovern.

b. Oops Tags for Recycling

See above

c. Black Earth Request for Proposals (RFP)

They sent an example RFP they can use to draft.

3. Update: McGovern Solar Roof Array

Stephanie stated they just got approval for interconnection. She hopes to schedule a meeting next week with all the key players and lock in the PPA rate.

4. Update: Police Station charging station

Stephanie stated the Make Ready program through Eversource used to cover most of the upfront costs. The total cost is \$48,000 with install. We have some grant money and the Make Ready program will contribute some but the difference will be on the town which is not what they planned for. The DPW and Police might split the cost. Marty suggested going to Fin Com.

5. Update: Green Communities Grant Award projects (heat pumps & electric vehicle)

This contract is ready and on the agenda for the Select Board for May 6th.

6. Update: Pet Waste and Stormwater

Stephanie reported people have been throwing pet waste bags into the stormwater basin. They collected two five gallon buckets of pet waste. She sent a letter out to all abutting neighbors at Candlewood Drive, Island Road, and Pine Ridge Road. This seems to have helped the problem.

7. Update: Community Choice Aggregation

The Department of Public Utilities is making a final ruling within the next few weeks. We could be ready to move forward within 6 months.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. Approval of January 24, 2024 meeting minutes as amended.

Wally made a motion to approve the January 24, 2024 meeting minutes as amended. Dave F. seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

2. Approval of February 21, 2024 meeting minutes as amended.

Wally made a motion to approve the February 21, 2024 meeting minutes as amended. Dave F. seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Marty Dietrich and Dave Travalini membership renewal reminder

Marty's term expires on June 30th. He will decide on renewing. Dave T. is renewing for 4 years.

Discuss reducing the number of committee members to five.

Marty thinks we could bring the committee members down to 5 members instead of 7 to make it easier for a quorum and bring on ad hoc members as needed.

The next meeting will be at May 8th at 7:00 pm and going forward the meetings will start at 7:00pm.

Adjourn

Wally made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm Dave. F. seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tracy Rozak