Merrimac Green Advisory Committee
Minutes of the meeting
7/20/26 6:30-8

Members present:
Kendra Bowker
Cheryl Leone
Mike Stevens
Liaison- Ed Davis

Absent:
Andy Toomey
Martha Muehe
Liason-Rob Gustison

Residents present:
Tom Hankins
Lance Hidy

Discussion:

- Approved meeting minutes from 6/22/26
- Approved Agenda

- Ed Davis provided list from Mary Usovicz with comments re: the survey, to factor into any next steps.

- Kendra reviewed major takeaways from the survey :
  -Many are not aware of cost savings and appliance rebates from MLD, and energy audits from Homeworks.
  -Many felt it is important to switch town-owned buildings and vehicles to green energy sources.
  -Many people expressed interest in expanding solar power in Merrimac and/or having a buy back program from MLD but MLD does not support this. Info coming from MLD in monthly bills may not be read by many.

- Survey results next Steps:
  -Promote EVs, Merrimac Light Dept.'s Appliance Rebates, Home Energy Audits and Weatherization, Heat Pumps to replace oil and propane, Expand solar opportunities.
  -How to get information out to residents was discussed including: official mailings, posting on social media, and targeted ad on Comcast. No decisions were made. Kendra, Mike, Cheryl and Lance Hidy volunteered to work on creating information sheets and ideas will be brainstormed and discussed at a future meeting.
- A raffle winner was drawn and Kendra will notify that person by email.

- Zero EV policy update: Merrimac Dept heads will be meeting in September but Dylan Patel can not attend. Kendra will reach out to him to see if an official substitute from the State can come to present to the Dept. heads. Once that presentation and discussion happens Green Committee can ask Select Board if they have any further questions and if they can sign to adopt the policy.

- Agreed to ask ACES representative to come speak to the committee to hear about the Waste Watchers program that is currently in Newburyport.

- Reviewed our Waste Management Workshop goals, but no action taken at this time.

- Kendra shared her knowledge on the CELT fellowships and that Merrimac could apply to have an intern work for the town on a particular project for a 6 month period. Would this be a good idea to pursue?

- Ed Davis will ask Mary Usovicz if she would do a joint interview with Cassie Traggert for her thesis project. It could be a great opportunity to learn from her as well, regarding small solar groups in Germany.

Note: Ed Davis provided the group with a copy of Mary Usovicz's comments on the survey results. If you were not present and would like a copy I can scan and email you one.

Next meeting August 24? 6:30-8 Merrimac Police Dept and zoom