Merrimac Green Advisory Committee
Minutes of the meeting
8/24/26 6:30-8

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

Absent:
Andy Toomey
Martha Muehe
Liason-Rob Gustison

Residents present:
Tom Hankins
Lucy Abisalih

Discussion:

- Approved meeting minutes from 7/20/26
- Approved Agenda

- Ed Davis provided info from recent questions for Mary Usovicz. MLD is offering 50 no cost Energy Audits. Also, there are $2,500 rebates for air source heat pumps. MLD does not offer buy backs for residential solar energy. Ed will follow up with Mary about the interview with graduate student Cassie Traggert about solar communities. GAC members to also be invited but Mary's knowledge is key.

- Representatives Art Currier, Lon Hachmeister and Elise Kennedy from ACES presented an introduction to their work which included waste reduction/increase composting in Newburyport. The Waste Watcher Workshop was a call for other towns to do the same since there is a State mandate to reduce by 2030/2050.
  The Green Comm. was encouraged to perhaps get Merrimac to do more such as composting at the Senior Center, the Town Hall, or to have one public Black Earth compost site in town. Use the grant initiatives. ACES rep offered to send someone to sit in on any future discussions. They know of available State Liason that is available to help with composting.
  Should Green Comm. focus on this or on Carbon Emmission reductions?

- Survey results next Steps:
  Mike, Cheryl, and Kendra will rough draft an information sheet for residents on Home Energy Audits, No-Cost or Low-Cost home sealing and insulation, as well as a FAQs list.

- Discussed ways no cost information sheets could be distributed to residents:
  Paper copies in businesses, library, Town Hall
  Town website, MLD monthly bills
  Facebook, other social media. Perhaps Tom would help.
  Ask Town employees who do web posting.
  Is the Town open to the need for basic communications

- Zero EV policy update: Dylan Patel to present to Dept. Heads at their December meeting (can't do the Sept. meeting). Mike will ask Pentucket Superintendent to attend this meeting, since he must also sign the policy.
  Kendra will ask Rob what the next steps are on this topic from the BOS. For example, do they have questions we can answer? We'd like them to be able to vote on the policy after the Dec. Dept. Heads meeting.

- What could the Green Committee do to participate in the 150 Year Anniversary at the Donahue field in September?

- Next meeting Sept. 28 6:30-8 Merrimac Police Dept and zoom