

MONTAGUE ENERGY & SOLAR PLANNING COMMITTEES JOINT MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 25, 2023, 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM Designate facilitator and scribe: Sally facilitating, Jason scribe.

Present: Tim Van Egmond, Ariel Elan, Sally Pick, Pam Hanold, Bob Rueter, Jason Burbank.

Called to order at 4:48 PM. This meeting is by Zoom and is recorded.

Chelsea Little/ Clean Water Facility projects

Chelsea notes the need to fast track the boiler replacement for the facilities building. We discuss and talk about concerns regarding heating with wood pellets, ventilation, weather stripping, heat transfer into water tanks in pump station, need for ventilation as ventilation not acceptable, benefits of ERV's or HRV's over existing ventilation system and damage from sulfur dioxide. Chelsea suggests she could come again next month.

She notes they have two bids for fully electric cargo vans. Recorder is looking to do a story on it, we may be the first in the county. Vehicle is locally available and is expected to be delivered in May.

Next time: Chelsea notes she has a full plate with purchasing and general contracting, but would like to look into a hydroelectric generator. She thinks it could power the whole facility, knows there are some.

Tim notes next meeting will be on May 23.

Approved minutes from March 28, 2023 MEC meeting. All approved except Ariel who abstains.

Community Planning For Solar with U. Mass. Clean Energy Extension

- Sally notes solar survey for town of Montague is due April 30, deadline extended.
- She discusses the reason for the survey. Trying to avoid the troubles when large solar installations are proposed in a town. Survey to help identify residents' preferences for the future planning for solar across the community and to be compiled into general information for state planning.

Helping Town Prioritize Energy-Saving Projects for Upcoming State & Federal Grants

- Last Bob heard was a layout from Greg Garrison of NE Solar received by Walter Ramsey for the Town Hall Annex and DPW garage. This was a high level layout.

Update on proposed Green Communities Grant Projects • Jason:

- Jason will look into the project definition for Clean Water Facility ventilation.

Energy Related Facility Updates

- Outdoor lighting upgrades to LED:
 - Jason contacted Bruce Watson of the Montague Center Lighting District board and Chris Mason on getting needed information to Walter in time for the grant application. Bruce noted the remaining items needed (light fixture specifications) and Chris said that George Kingsbury would be providing that to Walter, since this is almost an extension of the Turners Falls project which George worked on.
- Elementary School ventilation – Checking in with Heath Cummings: ventilation running all the time?

- Jason had an opportunity to raise the question with Heath in a CIC meeting but the answer relative to the elementary schools was too vague to be productive. Controls do not seem to be in place at present; sounds like it is a longer term goal of Heath.

- Information on net zero and energy efficient techniques, including embodied carbon. Tabled

Turners Falls Airport Ground-Mounted PV Proposal

- Sally checked with new town planner, Maureen Pollock, about the issue of endangered species protection . Maureen confirmed that endangered species requirements would apply. Massachusetts process for review will be followed.

State level energy-related policies and legislation updates

- Discussion of Town opting into Specialized Net Zero Stretch Code: Tabled.
- Other legislation & policies: Sally notes that Green Bank legislation is moving forward.

Missing minutes to be sent to town website.

Tim would like to work on this. Many of us may have minutes in our possession.

Other topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting

Announcements

- Webinar coming up momentarily (6 pm following this meeting) on Decarbonizing via low embodied carbon in building materials. Sally will attend.

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 23, 4:30pm