

Minutes MEC Meeting Oct. 8, 2013

Present – Pam Hanold, Richard Adams, Chris Mason, Sally Pick, Tim Van Egmond.

1. Report on Solarize Montague :

Letter from Ann Bronner of Northeast Solar reported 32 Solar installations, Tier 4 pricing (\$4.25/w) excluding rebates and tax incentives. Total KW installed was 138.94, all installations but one are operational at this point.

Consensus of the committee is that this was a very worthwhile program that raised public awareness about solar, the town's green energy efforts, and the Energy Committee. Sally will report to Select Board within the next couple months.

2. Town Energy issues, including Sheffield School boiler. Jason, Pam, Chris, Sheffield School is actually 2 separate buildings. Only one section with problem boiler. That boiler uses oil and gas and heat exchanger for hot water heat. Natural gas is already piped in. Some amount of firing going all year long to keep pipes warm, concern about cracks from allowing to cool.

Pam – further discussion at another meeting. Clayton had suggested bringing heating from newer building to auditorium and gym in older building. There are four different ways the heating of that space could be pulled off of the old boiler. All agreed there's need for the architect and the engineer to look over the situation and make a proposal. There's an important question of how long the town plans to use this building.

Jason said he's very impressed with maintenance people at the schools.

Pam summarized - people looked hard at the issue, agreed it's not as simple as it looked at Town Meeting, and that it requires a design proposal from engineers.

Chris asked that Montague Energy Committee see the proposal via email before final decision.

3. Strategic Planning – FRCOG, MassCEC and DOER update. For the Oct. 22 Clean Energy Forum at GCC, Sally will split up a list for outreach, and e-mail portions to MEC members to spread the word and invite people to attend. Pam will contact Town officials.

4. Solarize: Montague Energy Star Decals – Chris suggested Decals could be earned, with reward entry in annual raffle. People would get a star if they've done something, but need to commit to do something more in another heading. People couldn't win the raffle unless they kept current with their commitment. He said this would give us something to “hang out hat on” for fundraising. It would also give us an opportunity to showcase green energy practices. The question came up – can it be in our purview to raise money? Sally will write up a starter list of things people can do to get the Decal. We'll mention that we're thinking of ways to further recognize people's green energy efforts.

5. Pumpkinfest – discussion of schedule for MEC members to table, set-up of tables and materials.

6. Agenda for next meeting.