

Minutes MEC Meeting May 27, 2014

Present – Members, Pam Hanold, Chris Mason, Sally Pick, Tim Van Egmond. Also Jeff Singleton and Mike Jackson.

1. Minutes – 4/22 and 5/13 not yet available to approve.
2. Sheffield School - Pam read response from School Supt. Michael Sullivan. Would be happy to meet with MEC along with Ed Wilkins. Chris forwarded link about Sapphire Project to Pam for her to send to M.S. To make sure that he's Pam will also check on possible dates in August for this meeting.
3. FRCOG strategic Planning Implementation Grant – Chris, Pam & Sally are all individually on working group for energy strategies, and have filled questionnaires. Chris said FRCOG recommended two strategies: helping launch a community solar array in WMECO area (cooperatively owned?) and outreach to landlords and tenants using FRESH as a model. Chris suggested to FRCOG that they hold a meeting to clarify process. Pam & Chris said either would be good, Sally said she had a strong preference for energy efficiency first.

Motion made to convey to FRCOG that the energy efficiency strategy is funded. Seconded and carried.

4. DOER Resiliency Grant – Chris summarized that DOE will make \$40 million for life safety resources, lifeline resources and community resources to make more resilient. Would pay for added cost of islanding PV at Safety Complex, but not PV itself. One town in area is looking at putting PV on a Stop and Shop, which would get savings from tax break and become a shelter. Another town doing the same with a gas station. (Municipal buildings wouldn't get tax breaks). Chris wondered if we could arrange a Power Purchase Agreement to make PV on Safety Complex feasible.

Chris didn't think we'd be ready to apply in the first \$20 million round, but could apply for technical assistance and then apply in second phase.

Pam will contact Bob Escot as Emergency Manager and see what he says, then see about bringing him and others together for a meeting (probably during day).

5. Transportation, FRTA routes – Jeff Singleton spoke about proposal to eliminate route 23 from Montague Center to Amherst. Outcry made FRCOG oppose it, support something new. State mandated that transportation authorities do comprehensive service analysis. FRCOG hired consultant in conjunction with other transportation authorities for CSA. Current methodology only considers current ridership. Jeff suggests Energy Committees can help by calling for meeting for explanation on how need is determined.

They've hired another consultant to explain how routes assessed.

Conversation about Select Board appointing Jeff S. a member of MEC to be point person on this. Jeff agreed to become a member with transportation as his main focus. Chris suggested we (MEC) call meeting for conversation on how FRTA plans meet sustainability goals, invite other Energy Committees etc. to join us.

6. Gas Pipeline – Mt. Grace Land Trust hired an atty to put together document about DPU authority for

access to property to survey. Pam would like to bring to Water Board, asked if could have MEC sign on to ask Water Board to consider permission for access.

Suggested questions for Forum:

Would this pipeline hinder the strategies in Massachusetts Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2020?

Why are they planning new route rather than adding onto existing line in the south, or along Mass Pike?

Would addressing leaks in system save enough gas to meet Massachusetts' needs?

What are the state's plans to close existing leaks, either through mandate or incentives (to address significant greenhouse gas emissions)?

7. Agenda for next meeting.