

Montague Energy Committee

November 17, 2015 6:15-8:15 PM

Town Hall 1st Floor Meeting Room

Present: Chris Mason, Sally Pick, Pam Hanold, Tim Van Egmond, Rich Adams, Jeff Singleton.

Approved minutes 11/3/15 with discussed amendments and corrections.

Designate facilitator and scribe: Chris facilitated, Sally took minutes.

Town staffing – recommendations to Selectman to hire temporary staff in Frank’s absence.

Discussed draft letter and revisions.

Lack of Town Administrator is negatively affecting ability of town to apply for and implement energy-related grants and projects, such as Green Community Grants. Current approach of Selectboard overseeing various town projects is not sufficient.

Instead of a letter, Chris will speak with Selectboard chair, Mike Nelson, about these concerns.

Discussion re MEC leadership, committee work: Tabled.

Update on FRCOG outreach/marketing RFP

Peggy Sloan sent out quarterly summary report to Chris and Sally. Chris forwarded to committee members.

Send feedback to Sally for FRCOG, Coop Power. Sally will review comments and forward them to FRCOG & Coop Power unless discussion necessary.

Sally read letter from Ellie K, regarding possible scope of work she will do.

Town energy issues:

Update on Jon Dobosz of Parks & Rec ideas for making Utility Park Field House sustainable.

Sally reported on ideas she discussed with Jon to weatherize the field house.

Possible ways to pursue getting work done:

Mass Save, Eversource, Berkshire Gas, tech school, DPW.

Sally will contact tech school to see if they’re interested in pursuing this effort.

Sheffield boiler/burner - update/next steps

Jeff called Jim Huber. Still waiting on bid to repair boiler for backup. Needs to ask for 3 quotes.

Selectboard has signed contract for META grant for energy assessment of school.

Shea Theater Boiler Upgrade –update/next steps

Nothing to report.

Montague Center Library mold problem

- Jeff will call Tom Bergeron re who is in charge of town buildings, what is their scope of work and expertise.
- Jeff will contact Linda to ask her what her process is for addressing building issues.

Additional building issues

New town Issues to address

K-M pipeline

EE as alternative to pipeline?

Discussed idea of outreach event promoting joint green buildings, gardens, cultural events to work jointly that would help promote energy efficiency. Will be added to future agenda.

One perspective on squashing of net metering is that it will make the pipeline more viable.

FRTA

- **Route changes:** Voted route changes. Changed routes somewhat to get bus to GCC in time for 9am classes. May be some room for additional changes over next couple of FRTA board meetings. Fare changes will be voted Jan. 1, 2016.

Discuss item before Planning Board re changes needed to permit solar panels in Business District

Concern that ground mounted PV for proposed site would result in removal of many trees.

- Jeff will contact Planning Board chair re steps for changing bylaws on PV in business district.

Action Items:

- Jeff will revise 11/3/15 minutes according to discussion.
- Chris will speak with Mike Nelson about MEC's concerns about the negative affects on town energy projects of not having a Town Administrator.
- MEC can send feedback to Sally for FRCOG, Coop Power. Sally will review comments and forward them to FRCOG & Coop Power unless discussion necessary.

- Sally will contact tech school to see if they're interested in pursuing making the field house more energy efficient.
- Jeff will touch base with Jim Huber again.
- Chris will call the Center for EcoTechnology to see if any energy assessments available for Montague Center library and park's office.
- Jeff will call Tom Bergeron re who is in charge of town buildings, what is their scope of work and expertise.
- Jeff will contact Linda Hickman to ask her what her process is for addressing building issues.
- Jeff will contact Planning Board chair re steps they are taking for changing bylaws on PV in business district.

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

Plan agenda for next meeting

Votes may be taken