

Montague Energy Committee

July 5, 2016 6:15-7:45 PM, Town Hall 1st Floor Meeting Room

Present: Sally Pick, Tim Van Egmond, Chris Mason, Pam Hanold.

Approve minutes 6/7/16 & 6/21/16: approved with suggested edits.

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

Town energy issues:

Update on Park & Rec EE measure: No report.

Sheffield Audit - update/next steps:

- Committee will review audit and may ask school and town contacts to discuss at future meetings.

Shea Theater Boiler Upgrade –update/next steps:

- Pam will check with Walter re status of spending Green Communities funds.

Library bldgs. mold problems: No word from Linda Hickman re state recommendations.

Additional building issues:

- **Montague Center Common Hall**
 - Ways to encourage energy efficiency?
 - Small building that's used infrequently: small energy impact.
- **DOER changing META process**
 - Funds will now go thru regional planning agencies
 - Possible opportunities for town buildings.

Informing energy committee re Town structural & infrastructure procurement work:

Tabled

Municipal aggregation: No report.

Franklin Co Green Tour in Montague: No report.

Green Hero for Montague: No report.

Tree Advisory Committee: No report.

Airport Solar Farm: No report.

New META grant:

- Available thru FRCOG, due 7/6/16 for technical assistance up to ~\$12,000.

- MEC may want to ask Walter/Caroline for a list of all Town buildings paying energy bills for to id potential future META grant opps for 2017.

Update on Letter to DPU regarding shortcomings in review process exposed by gas pipeline

- Continued discussion re letter drafted.
 - Discussion about what kind of comments would be most effective; how can that be determined?
 - Committee will explore points of leverage for submitting comments.
 - Look for what other leaders, organizations, activists are focusing on see if there are common directions, lessons learned that the committee can explore further and help leverage with comments.
 - Tabling DPU letter to explore what might be effective.

Town Vehicles, potential for electric vehicles and charging stations:

- Finance committee is interested in pursuing smaller police vehicles.
- DEP has grants for charging stations; have in past offered grant \$ for buying electric vehicles.
- Newer state law allows Towns to charge for charging electric vehicles.

New members for energy committee: To be discussed in future once we know criteria used to determine a quorum and how to remove people no longer active on the committee but still listed as members on the web and by the town.

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

Plan agenda for next meeting

Votes may be taken

Action items

- Tim will ask Deb Bourbeau what requirement is for a forum (a majority of appointed members or a majority based on the committee size stipulated by the select board) and if chair can request members to be unappointed (if so, how).
- Chris will ask Jason and Rich to review Sheffield audit and come to the next meeting to discuss audit.
- Pam will check with Walter re status of spending Green Communities funds on HVAC system.
- Pam will call Linda Hickman re status of library mold issues.
- Chris will check with Peggy Sloan at FRCOG re new DOER META grant process set to go through regional planning agencies and opportunities for Town to tap this for Town buildings.
- Pam will check with Caroline to see if she has a list of Town buildings for which the Town pays electricity, heating & cooling.