

Montague Energy Committee 7 March 2017

Present : Tim Van Egmond, Chris Mason, Ariel Elan, Pam Hanold

Corrected and approved minutes of 2 Feb. 2017.

Follow-up on last month's discussion with Steve Ellis:

Agreement that it was very useful. See that it would be useful to clarify communication channels in general.

Do we want to see the town discuss whether we want to move away from fossil fuels or decrease our use of it?

Any other general policy issues around energy efficiencies to discuss? (For instance, under what circumstances does something like heat pumps lose efficiency?)

Do we need staff training around maintaining/using newer technology?

Would it be useful to have flow charts for communications and understanding what decisions are made where with what combinations of staff and committee involvement?

What about a chart of town facilities so we can do forward thinking/planning around energy improvements/maintenance/use? (Could we use college/grad students as a resource?)

Green Communities Grant:

Have shifted what was applied for. Chris will check with Walter for the final specifics in the grant. (Chris and Jason got a request from Walter about changing from using heat splits at the Library to replacing the furnace.)

Chris reported on the New England Municipal Sustainability Network

A collection of towns/cities looking at sustainability networking. Food, complete streets design, energy issues, rental units, and renewable fuels have been some of the issues covered. They collaborate with lots of other groups/resources. Looking to establish useful strategies for municipalities.

Thermal imaging opportunity – FYI for MEC

MIT developing a drive-by capacity of a drive-by image giving 3 sides of a building with additional info re time and other pertinent conditions which gives a really accurate thermal image, building by building. Meeting done through Sen. Rosenberg's office (by invitation, which included Northampton). Stan Rosenberg sees the benefit of this process as more efficient than the current energy audit, that it is something that could replace the current MassSave procedure. Given privacy issues, open question of how to use this.