

Montague Energy Committee Minutes

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Town Hall Downstairs meeting room, 6:15-8:15 PM

Present: Chris Mason, Tim Van Egmond, Sally Pick, Ariel Elan, Jason Burbank, Pam Hanold. Guests: Lucia Mason, John Hanold.

Approved minutes of 12/5/17 & 1/16/18.

Chart of Town facilities & which town entity controls their energy use

MEC held conference call with Jeremy Price and Matthew Raymond, students who wrote Energy Infrastructure Assessment Report. Here's a summary of questions raised and clarifications. Chris has more detailed questions that he'll send to them.

- Thermal energy audit mentioned in report. Where does one get that?
- They were not able to get age of heating equipment but did take photos of nameplates, which were often not readable.
- Carnegie: Why not able to analyze attic insulation? Requires maintenance to open up.
- Millers Falls Library: What is heating system? Electric baseboard in original structure and bathroom, oil boiler controls a couple of hydronic heaters(?). Told by Linda Hickman, library director, there is a stream that runs under property contributing to moisture issues. Some open earth in basement. What about using an air source heat pump for this building? No, because of existing infrastructure. Also, has nice location for pellet wood heat boiler in back of library. UMass doing research on air pollution from wood pellet boilers.
- Montague Center Library: Question about adding insulated wooden barrier around perimeter of building where open-earth or stone is raised. Barrier recommended for inside of building. Double doors to gym in front of building not being used; they are operable.
- Hillcrest School: Recommends keeping a legacy heating system as backup if gets very cold, if install air source heat pumps.
- Sheffield: Unit ventilators always on in each classroom? Jim Huber told them that. Worth confirming. Could install CO2 monitors but only last ~2 years. Possible that outside dampers might be closed, so ventilation not using outside air.

- Senior Center: Insulate a wall against boiler room foundation wall. Hot water heater is in basement, ~25 feet from stove. Use an air source water heater for basement that's very warm? Might be a good option.
- Town Hall: Why not able to inspect attic space? Another space above attic space in photo in report but weren't able to access it. Chris has been there and thinks there's no insulation in there.
- Online data storage: Concern raised in report regarding making energy data public, but since it's public information, not a concern. May be a concern about people changing data.
- Airport: Recommends replacing AC with ASHP but doesn't recommend it for heat. Energy use for furnace is low.
- Police Station: Sallie Port would need to be looked at structurally before considering PV.
- In future meetings, MEC would like to put together a list of next steps and prioritize them, including low hanging fruit that Town maintenance staff may be able to implement over time. Capital Improvements committee would be a good place to start discussion with Town.

Recommending a lifecycle analysis policy and solar-ready roofs for new buildings: tabled.

Discuss carbon fee & rebate resolution from Town

Chris met with Steve. Recommends that MEC go to BOS and let them decide if will pass it along to Town Meeting, which is likely. To get onto upcoming Town Meeting warrant, MEC is being put on BOS agenda for next week. Need to review resolution and double check list of people to whom it is copied.

Ask BOS to unanimously recommend it to Town Meeting.

Outdoor lighting upgrades to LED

Invited by Eileen Tila of Turners Falls Fire District to look at which cobra head lights could be turned off in Turners Falls, since new ornamental lights have gone in. Town would need to cancel lease on cobra heads and have Eversource remove them if decide to turn them off cobra lights.

Fire District would like to get ALL Town street lights converted to LED. They've asked if MEC would be willing to take lead on this. Eversource won't own LEDs. Town would have to buy street lights and install LEDs on them. Eversource saying they won't sell lights unless do entire town's lights.

Need to do inventory of street lights and i.d. where over lit. Light districts would end contracts and Town would buy lights. BUT, Steve said can move accounts to Town, but it would be difficult to move the revenue to Town.

Chris now convinced that changing lights best and easiest at Light District level. Worth discussing with Eversource if they would consider allowing Town to make changes in districts. Town would be responsible for maintenance. Chris has complete inventory of Town's leased lights.

MEC could coordinate project with different light districts to change out the lights all at the same time. Some Town entity would need to prepare an RFP to change lights. Probably would be Green Communities grant eligible.

Districts could sign a contract to maintain the new LED lights, possibly with other communities.

Review of geothermal system at the Public Safety Complex: tabled.

Ave. A Illumination Project—color and directional shading?: tabled.

Town buildings and energy use (e.g. PV on WTP): tabled.

Schools' oil tank replacements: tabled.

Discuss future directions, priorities of committee, building membership: tabled.

Plan agenda for next meeting: Next meeting Wednesday, March 14.

Other topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Votes may be taken.

Action Items:

- Chris will email Jeremy Price with additional questions about report.
- Ariel will send Jeremy edits to the report.
- Sally will coordinate with Chris re BOS discussion on the carbon fee and review who resolution gets sent to.
- Chris will talk with Ken at Eversource to see if they would consider allowing the Town to change street lights on a light district level.
- Tim will send approved minutes from December 5, 2017 and January 16, 2018.
- **All MEC members will review UMass report for discussion in March about next steps and prioritizing them.**