

## Montague Energy Committee

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

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**Present:** Chris Mason, Sally Pick, Jason Burbank, Ariel Elan.

**Chris facilitating; Sally taking minutes.**

**Approved minutes from 10/8/18 & 11/6/18.**

### **DPW building**

- Designer bids coming in 12/5/18.
- MEC invited to look at META grant report first draft from Chris Schaffner of The Green Engineer, coming out 12/20/18.
  - DPW committee will distribute report to MEC to look at and possibly review ASAP.

### **Discussion of solar bylaws**

- Chris sent recommendations to Walter based on MEC discussion at last meeting. Walter will share them with planning board.

**Recommending a lifecycle analysis policy and solar-ready roofs for new buildings:** no report.

### **Outdoor lighting upgrades to LED**

- Chris met with Turners Falls Fire District and Montague Center Light District to talk about META grant. These 2 districts cover all town lights.
  - Scope of work: inventory of lights, pricing, GIS information, advice on how to handle RFP for various entities...to cover all street lights owned by Eversource.
  - Looking to define what qualifications needed for company doing META grant study.

**Town buildings and energy infrastructure, including Sally's list of town energy projects:** Tabled.

**New offer of help from UMass Clean Energy Extension:** Tabled.

### **Schools' oil tanks replacement**

- MEC wants town to go through META grant process to do due diligence.
- Jonathan Parrott of DOER pressuring municipalities to choose wood heat.
  - Wood heat cleanest in coldest times, but it needs to run all the time when on.
- Berkshire Gas has to pay \$1M penalty toward renewable thermal, including in Montague, a moratorium town.
  - Grant includes heat pumps, wood boilers, solar thermal.
  - Application very short: heat load analysis and energy savings.
  - Grant first come, first served. Shovel-ready. Preference for town investment in project which would require Town Meeting approval, delaying process. All makes it difficult to apply for because of delays from Town Meeting allocations and from META grant study process.
  - New rooftop heating units paid for with Green Communities grant could possibly be shifted away from gas to electric. Units are isolated and wouldn't affect heating of rest of Sheffield.
    - Rooftop units may be best used during coldest temperatures and could run mini splits in these spaces during shoulder seasons and milder weather.
  - META grant will put us in position to make a well-informed decision on which is best way to proceed. Town can apply for Mass. Clean Energy Center grant and Berkshire Gas grant.
  - MEC wants to request that the final scope of work for the META grant study also considers hybrid options and breaking up the systems, so that subsystems of the heating system can be left as is.

### **Report on CIC meeting, if there was one since last MEC meeting**

- Ariel reported question re Shea Theater roof: R-38 vs R-30? CIC will recommend R-30 because of architectural changes and related increased costs for R-38.

Tuesday, December 4, 2018

**Discuss future directions, priorities of committee, building membership—  
including scheduling meeting with Peter Wingate of Community Action: Tabled.**

**Plan agenda for next meeting**

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

**Votes may be taken.**

**Action item:** Ariel will send to MEC first draft of DPW META grant report.