

Montague Energy Committee
Montague Senior Center
Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2019, 6:30-8 PM

Present: Tim Van Egmond, Sally Pick, Ariel Elan, Chris Mason, Pam Hanold.
Facilitator & Scribe: Chris facilitating, Tim scribing.

Approve minutes from 8/7/19 Meeting: Vote taken, passed unanimously.

Discussion if there are additions to the agenda.

Chris announced:

Montague did get small Green Communities grant (\$52,536) for LED lighting at Police Station, Parks Office, and Sheffield Sch. Administration, and miser controls at Police Station.

Steve A. passed on FYI letter to CIC and MEC of intention to drop PV array at Water Treatment Facility, due to changes that made finances uncertain.

Heating system options for Sheffield/Hillcrest school buildings:

Ariel reported that Tom Bowman (META grant-funded Heating Engineer) has gotten everything he needed (Sally put everything on a spreadsheet). He will produce a report for review and questions.

Ariel will write draft for redirecting failed META grant that had been for DPW bldg to other weatherization town-owned buildings need.

DPW Building: Jason Burbank, member of MEC and DPW committees, has been appointed Commissioning Agent for the project.

Outdoor lighting upgrades to LED: Chris reported that Turners Falls Fire District's Prudential Committee Chair signed a contract with George Woodbury with Lightsmart Energy Consulting for a META grant to do scope of work as attached. Chris will ask that MEC be kept up to date on progress, and any public meetings, opportunities for input on decisions.

Engaging landlords & tenants in energy efficiency: Sally announced she's organizing on behalf of Draw Down Montague a new workshop at the Discover Center on Oct. 10, 6:30 to 8 PM. This will be collaborating with CET and Pioneer Valley Community Action.

Solar Bylaws: Sally reported that Eric Weiss at Pioneer Valley Planning Commission is working on model solar bylaws for towns re: land use and solar in forested land. Otherwise tabled.

Report on CIC meeting if there was one since last meeting: there hasn't been a meeting.

Free Eversource EV public chargers for Turners & Millers Falls: Tim sent information from the state RMV on the number of EVs and plug-in hybrids in the 5 villages to the committee. Chris will look at data. Chris reported 8/28 email conversation about First Light's effort to put in a charging stations, and request for feedback on what kind. FRCOG is waiting for contract from DOER before they can help Montague apply for Eversource funding for more charging stations.

Town Buildings and energy infrastructure: tabled.

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

Town letter of support/testimony for MA 100% Renewable Energy Act: Tabled

Action Items:

Chris will look at data from DOT about number of Evs and plug-ins in the 5 Villages.

Chris will send agenda for next meeting in for posting.

Chris will communicate to Prudential Committee MEC's desire to be in touch about process, decisions.

Sally will look into solar bylaws, draft testimony on renewable energy and letter of support for carbon pricing.

Next meeting: Wednesday, Oct. 2 , 6:30 PM.