

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Montague Energy Committee

Zoom, 4-5PM

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

Chris facilitating; Tim taking minutes.

Approved minutes from 11.17.20: vote passed.

- Status Reports
 - Renewable energy heating system for Sheffield/Hillcrest school buildings, CIC Assessment (Ariel) Nothing to report.
 - Outdoor lighting upgrades to LED (Chris): Nothing to report. Pam raised the topic of a new HPS light half way up Unity St., example of light that's too bright and shines upwards. Chris will raise that issue next time he speaks with the Turners Falls Fire District and/or Montague Lighting District.
 - Status of adjustments to solar bylaws. (Sally) Tabled.
 - DPW Building (Jason): Has been chasing controls contractor around, who's about at the end of his work. Everything's adjustable that needs to be, heat pump will be squared away tomorrow. Some tweaking of temperatures and schedules for operation is possible. System is doing about all that it can be expected to do. Eversource's high demand rate structure poses a problem, makes using electricity for heat substantially more expensive than using oil at its current low price. Chris suggested once building energy use settles into a pattern, looking at possibility of solar array and battery storage.
- Letter to MA legislature's climate conference committee (possible vote to recommend to selectboard) Tabled.
- Tracking use of C-PACE (checking if cycle shop that was interested make any progress). Tabled.
- Ventilation under Covid, concerns about advisories to open windows in winter: Pam said pandemic recommendations for schools, etc. don't specify HEPA rating of filters. Europe is bringing in fresh air without using more energy. Questions of how to address filtration, ventilation, positioning of

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buildings, not just for current pandemic but future ones. Chris said it's hard to upgrade existing buildings, but definitely an important issue long-range. Pam said it's important to find out what current systems and capabilities are in the schools. Chris: could the Energy Committee gather information and make a recommendation to the schools? Pam will invite architect with expertise in this area to talk with MEC.

- Announcements (no discussion): None.
- **Planned agenda for next meeting**

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

Action items:

- Chris will reach out to Montague Center Light District about how they plan to move forward with LEDs.
- Pam will invite architect Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno to attend our next meeting to speak about approaches to improving ventilation in buildings.
- Tim will send approved Nov. 17 minutes to town for posting online.
- MEC Members are encouraged to read the CIC assessments for the school buildings.
- Chris will write and send in the agenda for the next meeting.

Next meeting: [3rd Tuesdays of the month going forward](#)—Tuesday, Jan. 19th, 4-5:30pm.