

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

Montague Energy Committee

By Zoom, 4-5:30 PM

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

Chris facilitating; Sally taking minutes.

Approved minutes from Dec. 15, 2020.

Approaches to improving ventilation in buildings

Chris Sawyer-Laucanno unable to attend, but he thought that the YouTube [video](#) on ventilation and filtration that Pam sent to MEC is excellent.

Chris reported that Northampton is applying for Green Communities Grants for heat recovery ventilation for schools. Green Communities Grants have already given a grant for this purpose. Grant applications just came out recently. This may be a moot point because the use of school buildings in town is up in the air.

Discussion about the nexus of energy efficiency and healthy ventilation.

3 ways to address ventilation and energy efficiency:

- HRV/ERV
- Reduce occupancy temperatures
- Ventilation scheduling: run it as needed but not more.

EV Charging Station Grants

Tim brought up an email from Bob Dean of FRCOG on grants available for the costs of installing DC Fast Charging stations for electric vehicles.

Problem: DC Fast chargers (Level 3) would increase the town's electric demand charges. They are best for charging EV's occasionally, for long distance travel, because DC fast charging degrades the battery. Turners Falls would be a good place to install one to attract people to town. Probably best to have a private company own a DC fast charger, so town wouldn't incur demand charge.

DEP has grant money for installing Level 2 chargers as well, but grants do not cover ongoing costs such as electricity costs, data monitoring. First come, first served grants. There are companies that will make the installations happen. Level 2 chargers would not increase town demand charges.

Tim will try to contact Walter again to explore these grants.

State-level advocacy: Climate bill & Clean Energy & Climate Plan for 2030

Sally reported on the MA climate bill process and where it stands. It has been passed twice, once in the last legislative session ending in early January 2021, and again last week in this new legislative session. It again awaits Governor Baker's signature.

Motion: MEC will send a letter to our state legislators, the governor, senate president and house chair, and Telecommunications, Utilities, & Energy committee joint chairs, in support of passing the climate legislation without changes.

MEC will review before the meeting and discuss Clean Energy & Climate Plan 2030 at the next meeting and decide if we want to submit comments.

Status reports

- **Renewable energy heating system for Sheffield/Hillcrest school buildings, CIC Assessment**
 - Ariel reported that she asked CIC if roof of Hillcrest would be replaced. Currently, repairing it for the foreseeable future, so no opportunities for new HVAC, insulation at the moment.

- **Outdoor lighting upgrades to LEDs**
 - TF Fire District moving forward. Chris sent to MEC the inventory, map and partially completed list of lights in TF that are being considered for turning off. Have financing set up. Will buy lights and put it out to bid.
 - Town of Montague only has floodlights, so not participating.

 - Montague Center: Mark Fisk, chair of Montague Center lighting district. Only meets once a year according to bylaws. Interested in moving forward

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and looking for funding to buy lights from Eversource, buy LEDs, and financing. Need to identify maintenance contractor.

- Chris will start looking at MC lights: what could be left, moved, turned off...
- **Status of adjustments to solar bylaws:** tabled.
- **DPW Building:**
 - Utility bills now coming in with Time-of-Day metering from Eversource. Looks like scheduling of energy use by time of day appropriate. Building heats very well; radiant floor heat rarely needed in vehicle storage.
 - Chiller not operating efficiently. Not much better than electric radiant heat. Controls need to be adjusted by control personnel, returning soon to make adjustments.

Tracking use of Massachusetts C-PACE: tabled

Announcements

Plan agenda for next meeting

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

Action items:

- Tim will check again with Walter and Steve about the EV charging station grants, and Chris is willing to join a conversation with them.
- Chris will send to Sally Northampton's letter in support of passing the MA climate legislation as is, from which Sally will draft a MEC letter.
- All MEC members will look at the MA Clean Energy & Climate Plan 2030 draft and at the next meeting be prepared to discuss the plan and possible comments to submit.

Next meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 16th, 4pm.