

MONTAGUE ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday August 26, 2025, 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM

Due to COVID-19 Public Participation will be by Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82287355964?pwd=02pM2Wiz3gfGbZx3HQEpGKABviltvqa.1>

Meeting ID: 822 8735 5964 Passcode: 688977 Dial: +16465588656 US (NY)

Votes May Be Taken

Designate facilitator and scribe, roll call of members who are present 4:32 PM.

General updates and Discussion with Chris Nolan-Zeller, Asst. Town Administrator. 4:35 PM

- Including preliminary plans for new library.

Discussion with Chris Nolan-Zeller, Asst. Town Administrator exploring possibility of becoming a Climate Leader Community. 4:40 PM

- Responses to the Select Board's (SB) questions
 - Analysis of how costs would be impacted if the Police Dept.were required to purchase electric police cruisers with each replacement instead of the hybrid or gas vehicles it currently uses.
 - More information on how adopting the Specialized Stretch Code would impact the overall costs of development, any potential impacts on large-scale residential, commercial, and/or mixed-use development projects, and whether it may add challenges to attracting a developer to the site.
- Warrant articles drafted by Walter Ramsey for Select Board.

Approve minutes from April 22, May 27, and July 15, 2025 MEC meetings (vote). 4:55 PM

Further Planning and Preparation for applying to become a CLC 5:05 PM.

- **Preparing for SB meeting early September, when Town Meeting articles are approved.**
 - Ask Chris Mason if available for SB meeting as soon as date known.
 - Information to address recent SB concerns regarding police vehicles and EV costs and possible large-scale development challenges to attracting a developer to the "Farren" property.
 - Slides, brief presentation by MEC to SB to address their concerns?
 - Review FAQ on large-scale development under Specialized Stretch Code.
 - Share with SB?
 - Review FAQ on benefits to residents from adopting Specialized Stretch Code.
 - Share with SB?
 - If approved, send to Greenfield Recorder writer who wrote re CLC?
 - Gathering supporters to help speak in favor, counter misperceptions.
- **Organizing Town forum(s) to present idea of becoming CLC, address questions, concerns.**

- Coordinating with Chris Mason and expert on Specialized Stretch Code
 - Possible dates, times for forum?
 - By Zoom?
- Gathering supporters to help speak in favor, counter misperceptions.
- **Discuss how to prepare for Town Meeting articles requiring approval:**
 - Info sheet on adopting Specialized Opt-In Stretch Code
 - Info sheet on non-binding commitment to ending on-site burning of fossil fuels in municipal buildings by 2050 (*decarbonization plan*), or maybe just general intro to CLC, to put warrant in larger context.
 - How reach out to TM members?
 - What share with them in advance?

State & federal level energy-related policies & legislation updates. 5:35 PM.

- Eversource Smart Meters now being installed.
- Article on how consumers can use them to lower electricity costs?

Community Planning For Solar with U. Mass. Clean Energy. Extension. 5:40 PM

- * Approach land trusts re: protecting high value conservation lands that could be sited for large arrays.
- Status of 30% incentive payments for municipalities/other nonprofits in place of tax credit, and of tax credits for residential and commercial solar.
 - First look at grid capacity for potential larger commercial PV.
- Depending on above status, approach big companies re: PV panels on roofs, canopies on parking lots?

Schools and Energy. 5:45 PM

Energy Related Town Facility Updates. 5:50 PM

- MA Building Electrification Accelerator (BEA) offer to help Montague explore town building electrification: ideas of buildings to explore with them.
- Potential of energy capture from wastewater treatment.
- Information on net zero & energy efficient techniques, including embodied carbon.

Helping Town Prioritize Energy-Saving Projects for Upcoming State & Federal Grants. 5:55 PM

[Energy Saver Home Loan Program \(ESHLP\)](#) and promotion of program. 5:56 PM

- Letter to Montague Reporter Editor?

Other topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of meeting. 5:57 PM

Announcements (no discussion). 5:58 PM

Plan agenda for next meeting. 5:59 PM