MONTAGUE ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday November 24, 2026 4:30 PM to 6 PM
Due to COVID-19 Public Participation will be by Zoom:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86028723297?pwd=HXaZSbYH8Ljo3RKyrJk7b5t5sra9xA.1

Meeting ID: 860 2872 3297 Passcode: 929788 Dial: 646 558 8656

Votes May Be Taken

Designate facilitator and scribe, roll call of members who are present 4:30-4:35 PM

Updates & Discussion with Chris Nolan Zeller 4:35-4:55 PM

- Advocating for solar, battery backup at the Turners Falls Airport
    - Walter's thoughts on if selectboard may be interested in sending a letter to legislators, MA Dept. of Public Utilities regarding Eversource grid upgrades needed for solar.
        - Letter to bring Town's grid limits to attention of DOER Grid Modernization Advisory Council (GMAC)?
            - Present idea, draft to BOS?
    - Updates on exploring battery storage?
- Discussion on Town exploration of municipal electric aggregation.
    - Discuss possible REC power supply mixes to recommend to power broker.
- Encouraging the Town to include high energy performance building designs in design preferences for former Farren development.
    - Exploring input from high energy performance developers on high energy performance building, for development design preferences?
- Updates on decarbonization plans for town buildings.
- Update on UMass Lowell municipal fellow program energy intern grant.
- Other discussion, updates.

Approve Sept. 22, and Oct. 27, 2026 Meeting Minutes. 4:55-5:05 PM

Recruiting new members 5:05-5:10 PM

- Possible to meet at 5:15pm or 5:30pm on a Wednesday to accommodate people working regular hours?
- Jason moving out of Montague?
- Potential new members?

Who on committee needs been sworn in? 5:10-5:12 PM

How pursue priority of outreach & education with practical energy & cost-saving ideas for residents, commercial entities? 5:12-5:35 PM

- Discuss ways to reach people and grab their interest, such as by creating energy saving social norms and encouraging collective action through:

    - Inviting guest speakers to MEC Zooms, such as: Community Action energy program staff person, Franklin Tech. and Greenfield Community College energy students and other energy experts to MEC meetings.
    - Planning presentation at Brick House between March & May 2027 with Megan McDonough of Habitat, on ways to raise awareness about features of planned new affordable housing including energy efficiency, building costs/savings from efficient & how electric homes operate.
    - Social media.
    - Articles in local papers (e.g. re social norm of people accessing Mass Save for energy saving measures & incentives, using Mass Save stats on participation).
    - Press releases, articles, some featuring local residents taking steps:
        - E.g. Using a smart meter to help save electricity & costs.
    - Select board presentations: share MEC updates with Walter; present to BOS.
    - Plan home energy tours? (spring ’28, potential tours of Habitat affordable housing)
    - List building science links on MEC webpage.
    - Tie into River Culture’s outreach, energy-related cultural projects?
    - Using a Kill-a-Watt meter from the Library of Things (already available at some area libraries).
    - Projects that build community.
    - Other ideas?

- Potential topics to focus on:

    - Mass Save/Community Action program energy saving measures, incentives, rebates.
    - Challenging perceptions about energy-related issues.
    - Simple, low-cost DIY projects like: installing door sweeps, installing weatherstripping in doors & windows, using replaceable cord caulk to seal window air leaks.
    - Others?

Discussion on becoming a Climate Leader Community 5:35-5:45 PM

- Discussion regarding Specialized Stretch Code:

    - Dec. 3, 4:30pm Zoom with Lisa Cunningham, director, ZeroCarbonMA & Cindy Arens, who have offered help with more information and coaching on adoption of Specialized Stretch Code.

- How sort out conflicting perspectives on Specialized Code?
    - Spray foam insulation has high total Global Warming Impact.
        - Report on discussion with building expert. (Ray & Sally)
        - Invite Paul Lipke to talk about likelihood that spray foam insulation would be used to meet Passive House standards for required for 12,000+ SF buildings under Specialized Code?
    - Reach out to local builders about their practices, how they meet Stretch Code, would meet Specialized Stretch Code, concerns, their questions?
        - Brief report on conversation with local builder. (Sally)
        - Discuss ideas re educating builders about Specialized Code.
            - Promote free Mass Save contractor trainings.
            - Other trainings?
    - Recommend that Town projects require spray foam insulation installer be a third party certified company and that the on-site installer be a certified installer, to avoid problems that are expensive & hard to fix retroactively? (Peter Yost & another builder require that for projects they oversee.)

State & federal level energy-related policies & legislation updates PM. 5:45-5:50 PM

- Updates on MA climate legislation.

Energy Related Town Facility Updates, including Schools. 5:50-5:52 PM

- Further discussion on the possibility of putting PV panels on the roof of the DPW & the Public Safety Complex, potentially with battery backup, and EV chargers for residents.
- MA Embodied Carbon Intergovernmental Council recommendations:
    - Municipalities not required to follow recommendations but can decide to:
        - Require Environmental Product Declarations (EDPs) for building and road project RFPs.
        - Use state model embodied carbon procurement from Mass Dept. of Transportation (DOT) & Division of Capital Asset Management & Maintenance (DCAMM).
            - Green Communities will lead municipalities on embodied carbon.
        - Harmonize municipal recommendations from Mass Climate Action Network (MCAN) for building RFPs.

- HERS raters & embodied carbon:
    - Now able to recommend low embodied carbon building materials.
    - HERS score credits, incentives can drive low embodied carbon material use, according to MA 100 Home embodied carbon study.
- Organize education for builders & residents on embodied carbon in building materials (especially as Farren plans being developed?

Other topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of meeting. 5:52-5:54 PM

Announcements (no discussion). 5:54-5:55 PM

Plan agenda, date for next meeting. 5:55-6 PM