

MONTAGUE ENERGY COMMITTEE MINUTES
Tuesday, November 23, 2021

Present: Sally Pick, Tim Van Egmond, Ariel Elan, Pam Hanold, Jason Burbank, Bob Rueter.

Designate facilitator and scribe: Sally, scribe; Tim, facilitator.

Approved minutes from October 26, 2021, MEC meeting, with amendment.

State level energy-related policies and legislation

- 100% Clean Act, Select Board and Town Meeting re: endorsement
 - Sally will draft a letter of endorsement for discussion at the next meeting.
- Municipal Sign-On Letter for Green Future Act.
 - Bob offered to draft a letter for discussion at the next meeting.

Energy Related Facility Updates

- Outdoor lighting upgrades to LED
 - Tim contacted Montague Center Lighting District to set up a meeting with Tim, Chris, and 3 MCLD members to look at financing ideas.
 - Chris has spoken with Eversource program director about this.
- Ventilation: how to support energy efficiency and air quality together
 - What is being done in the EU?
 - Jason:
 - A growing body of information on ventilation and filtration to mitigate viral transmission.
 - First focus on turning off exhaust fan when school buildings empty.
 - Got email reply from director of facilities for schools, Heath Cummings.
 - ASHRAE has new ventilation recommendations since Covid.
 - Teachers' contractual agreement requires not turning off ventilation. Jason suspects this does not require 24 hour ventilation.
- Pam will check with Walter Ramsey to see what he knows about federal grants becoming available for energy projects, including energy efficiency projects that incorporate ventilation.

Responsibilities of Committee Chair, who's willing to be new Chair?

- Chair(s) are typically contact person for public.

- They ensure that town meetings where MEC topics are under consideration have a MEC representative to address questions, make presentation...

Tim and Sally have been approved by MEC motion as new co-chairs.

Examine the role of MEC in educating the public

- Revisit public education on simple actions public can take to save energy?
- Are there school groups or other local organizations we could collaborate with?
- Maybe inform people about climate legislation and encourage them to contact local legislators.
- Have students interview people about what they do to save energy.
- Could be a way to give people actions on climate.

Announcements (no discussion): None.

Other topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting

- **Next meeting: Tuesday, December 28, 2021, 4:30pm**

Action items:

- Pam will follow up with Rep. McGovern's office regarding energy efficiency grants referenced in Greenfield Recorder article.
- Sally will draft endorsement letter of 100% Clean Act bill; Bob will draft Green Future Act endorsement letter.
- MEC members will look at 100% Clean Act ([H.3288](#)/S.2136) and Green Future Act ([H.3292](#)) bills for discussion on whether to endorse them [click on links and then *View Text* icon to read bills].
- Pam will call Walter regarding federal funds available for towns for energy projects.
- Jason will call Heath Cummings to discuss ventilation in school buildings and energy savings: is it possible to turn off ventilation after hours?