

Montague Energy Committee, Tuesday, November 28, 2023

By Zoom, 4:30-6 PM

Present:

Ariel Elan, Tim Van Egmond, Jason Burbank, Pam Hanold, Sally Pick.

Tim facilitating; Sally taking minutes.

Approve minutes from August 22, Sept. 26, Oct. 10, Oct. 25, 2023, MEC meetings. Tabled.

Community Planning For Solar with U. Mass. Clean Energy Extension

- Discussion about draft plan summary and how to engage Town department heads, committees/board in solar planning
 - Sally will ask Wendy if topic can be added to January 22, 2024 agenda and will send Wendy the Community Solar Action Plan Summary and the draft Community Solar Action Plan document for forwarding to BOS.
 - MEC suggested she tell selectboard that state expecting that all communities will help meet mandated greenhouse gas/renewable energy targets.
 - Ask if BOS is on board with using draft plan as a framework for prioritizing locations for future solar in Town, according to solar survey responses and further input from residents, Town department heads, and related committees/boards.
- Solar Forum:
 - Content:
 - Ask if anyone already thinking about solar. Discussion to be continued.
 - When schedule?
 - Sally will ask Wendy for thoughts on the best time to schedule forum, and, if on a Wednesday late afternoon when Town Hall is open until 6:30pm, what Wednesdays are available in February or March 2024 that don't conflict with committee/board meetings.

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Update on Green Communities Grant Projects. 5:15 PM

- Outdoor lighting upgrades to LED in Montague Center, with fall 2023 GC grant:\
 - After listening to dark skies experts testify at a state legislative hearing, Sally followed up with Bruce Watson of Montague Center Light District (MCLD) board, who connected her with lighting designer for MCLD's LED lighting.
 - He explained that he designs for 3000 K warmer streetlights that dim after 11pm, saving 50% electricity use. He told her that lighting that is warmer than 3000 K uses more electricity and has a shorter lifetime.

Energy Related Town Facility Updates. 5:20 PM

- Clean Water Facility: META grant updates on hydroelectric power-No update.
- Elementary School ventilation – check-in w/ Heath Cummings: ventilation running all the time?
 - Jason emailed Heath and hasn't heard back.
- Information on net zero and energy efficient techniques, including embodied carbon. Tabled.

State & federal level energy-related policies and legislation updates.

- Discussion of Town opting into Specialized Opt-In Stretch Building Code. Tabled.
- Other legislation & policies, including Green Bank, Inflation Reduction Act updates. Tabled.

Recruiting more Energy Committee members

- Tim emailed GCC head of environmental conservation program asking her if she would let students know about the opportunity to serve on MEC.
- Tim also emailed a neighbor who might be interested and has energy-saving measures at his home.
- MEC members encouraged to ask others if they know anyone who might be interested in being on MEC.

Helping Town Prioritize Energy-Saving Projects for Upcoming State & Federal Grants. Tabled.

Adding missing minutes to Town website. Tabled.

- For approval in future meetings of minutes from past meetings that were not definitely approved, MEC could send out past minutes to members.

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

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

- Sally will send Walter several websites with residential energy saving information, incentives.
- Tim heard about the Town of Shelburne's Community First Partnership. Will look for information they may have online about people's experiences with heat pumps.
- Sally reported that the Town is exploring getting a basic Microsoft Teams license for MEC, to allow us to schedule and open our own meetings.

Announcements (no discussion)

Next meeting: Tuesday, December 26, 4:30-6pm

Action items:

- All will review recent minutes not yet approved for discussion at next meeting.
- Sally will contact Wendy about getting a discussion of the draft Solar Plan and Solar Forum scheduling on the BOS agenda on January 22, 2024.
- Tim will explore information about the Town of Shelburne's Community First Partnership and possible information on heat pumps to share on MEC's webpage.
- All MEC members will explore ideas and network about recruiting new members.
- Anyone with MEC minutes not posted on the webpage but approved will send them in a group to Tim or Sally for Walter to post on MEC webpage.
- If you have MEC minutes not approved or not definitely approved, send them to MEC, so that we can review and approve them for posting.