

MONTAGUE ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 2014 11 26

Tuesday November 26, 2024, 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM

Present: Tim Van Egmond, David Dempsey, Jason Burbank, Sally Pick, Pam Hanold, Ray Sebold (non-member)

Designate facilitator and scribe: Tim, David

Approve minutes from Oct. 29, 2024 MEC meeting (vote) Approved as amended

State & federal level energy-related policies & legislation updates. 4:45 PM.

- Discussion of Town exploring possibility of becoming a Climate Leader Community.

Mass Energy Insights information needs to be updated. There is a question about whether contractors are upset about the current stretch-code and whether we need to be concerned that they would resist a move to the Opt-In Stretch Code. We should check with Bill Ketcham, the Building Inspector, for his insights into how contractors feel about the current code, how they might react to a move to the Opt-In Code, and how he feels about the idea. We should also explore whether there are technical training programs to help bring building inspectors and contractors up to speed.

- Legislative and technical issues, special projects

Climate bill passed. Sally is reviewing a summary. Local control over siting is greatly reduced. This is controversial. Pam asks whether National government change will impact Mass state policies. Removal of Inflation Reduction Act would be hard on incentive programs. Will the monies be shifted to the states before the new administration takes over?

David to look at the information from Chris Mason and evaluate what the changes are vis-à-vis the vehicle purchasing policies between the Green Communities status and the Climate Leader Community status.

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

- **Exploring next steps: DPW building**

Tim will ask Chris Nolan-Zeller whether he got any information from Eversource concerning whether the DPW roof can it be attached to the grid and/or be part of an electrical sharing program with other town/school buildings.

Schools and Energy. 5:10 PM

- Elementary School ventilation – This is largely taken care of by current time clock settings at the schools. Check with Heath Cummings if there is another grant going in and include if necessary. David will check in with Heath Cummings about progress on the Mass Clean Energy Center's, Building Electrification and Transformation Accelerator (BETA) program.

Energy Related Town Facility Updates. 5:15 PM

- Information on net zero & energy efficient techniques, including embodied carbon. **Tabled**
- Building Decarbonization Roadmap for nine Town facilities, funded by the Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) from DOER. Chris Nolan-Zeller said that the Select board voted to accept the grant that will fund the study. Are there any buildings not covered by the current EECBG study? What about the prudential committee buildings, fire stations, light district and water district,

airport buildings? Tim to ask Walter and/or Chris Nolan-Zeller about a definitive list of town buildings for the Decarbonization Road Map

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- MA Building Electrification Accelerator (BEA) offer to help Montague explore town building electrification: ideas of buildings to explore with them. **Tabled**

Recruiting more Energy Committee members. Ray Sebold is offering to join. He needs to write to Wendy Bogusz to offer to be appointed to the committee. Tim to draft a note to Wendy Bogusz about Ray's application.

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

Energy Saver Home Loan Program (ESHLP) and promotion of program Sally says it is through the Mass. Community Climate Bank that allows folks to get guidance and financial support for adding green energy projects. It needs promotion. Sally to add an ESHLP link and write a program description for the MEC web site.

Adding missing approved minutes to the Town web site. Tabled

Other topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of meeting. Move the next meeting? Tim will ask Chris N-Z whether he prefers 12/17 or 1/7.
David to send out a list of Action Items

Announcements (no discussion).

- Update on Green Communities Grant Projects.