

MONTAGUE ENERGY & SOLAR PLANNING COMMITTEES JOINT MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday November 22, 2022, 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM

Designate facilitator and scribe: Tim facilitating, Sally scribe.

Present: Tim Van Egmond, Ariel, Chris Mason (left meeting at 4:55pm), Sally Pick, Jason Burbank, Bob Rueter.

Approved minutes from Oct. 25 MEC meeting.

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

- Solar Panel Committee did introductions and UMass students explained project scope.
- Pam will check with Walter regarding Town perspective on PV and land use and existing input on solar from residents.

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

- Discussed Nov. 18, 2022, draft of list of possible priority projects.
- Town has a connection with Crocker building and another building on Avenue A that are low-income housing through Franklin Regional Housing Authority.
 - Potential opportunity for Town to install energy efficiency and all-electric building retrofits for low-income tenants.
- How much of Town use could be offset by PV on Town buildings?
- Geothermal for Town Hall:
 - Water table likely high there, so might be a good site. Jason thinks that bedrock is also high there, which would get in the way of geothermal.
 - Ask DPW if they know how high bedrock is.
- Pam will ask Walter how ideas may mesh with Town priorities and perspectives and what are findings of school and library reports.

Energy Related Facility Updates

- Outdoor lighting upgrades to LED: tabled.
- Elementary School ventilation – Checking in with Heath Cummings: ventilation running all the time?
 - Idea to include controls in Green Communities grant.
- Information on net zero and energy efficient techniques, including embodied carbon. Tabled.

State level energy-related policies and legislation updates

- Net zero stretch code: Tabled.
- Economic Development Bill passed this fall with some funding for climate measures in 2022 MA climate bill.

Letter to Maura Healy about steeply reducing methane emissions & stopping new pipelines. Tabled.

Update on gas industry seeking to prolong the use of methane fuel. Tabled.

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

Announcements

- Smith College is exploring geothermal.

Plan agenda for next meeting.

Action Items:

- Pam will talk with Walter about draft priority energy-saving ideas, how they fit in with broader Town picture and his sense of perspectives on PV and land use of the Town and residents.
- Jason will talk with Heath Cummings about school ventilation and ask him if it would be helpful to include the cost of controls in the next Green Communities Grant proposal.