

Montague Energy Committee

10/20/2010

4:30 – 6:30

Minutes

Present: Sally Pick, Tim VanEgmond, Chris Mason, Pam Hanold, Jason Burbank, Walter Ramsey, Clair Chang, John Ward

Clean Energy Choice Funds

John reported that he had spoken with the DPW about installing two solar hot air (SHA) panels at the DPW garage. They would be positioned on an east-facing wall to help heat the break room, which is very often cold. This room has two large east-facing windows one with an air conditioner permanently installed and apparently without a winter cover. The logic being that the the DPW hrs are from 6 – 2:30 and so heat in the morning would be useful.

Committee discussed other buildings that may be suitable for a SHA heater. The grant would cover the purchase of three SHA panels. These were:

Town Hall Annex – problem, used area is on north side of building and it isn't advised to mount a panel on the roof south side of the building as both would entail long ducts. In addition, a panel mounted low on the south side would be shaded by trees.

Hillcrest School – While this holds promise, it will depend on whether there is an internal space that could replace the current heat source (oil burner or furnace) during sunny times. We may find rooms that are overheated due to wide expanses of south-facing windows.

Montague Center Library – Has a wide open south-facing side and the building, although used only two-nights a week, could use a solar heat source to maintain warmth at times of no use since the furnace is used during these periods. The problem is that it is an historic building.

Committee also discussed a solar domestic hot water (DHW) system. The grant would cover the cost of materials (panels, controls) not including piping or labor for installation.

Two locations were considered. These were:

Safety Complex, which has showers for both staff and inmates. The amount of DHW was questioned – is it enough to make a SDHW system worthwhile? Or the payback of piping and labor worthwhile? It seemed the mounting would need to be on the north-west corner of the roof, which would only minimally interfere with a future PV array.

WWTP – The committee wondered if the WWTP employees took showers there (in Northampton, employees of the WWTP take 5- 7 showers a day). If so, the site is believed to be open to the south with a flat roof. Could the roof handle the weight of a SDHW system?

MOTION to approve expenditures of the Clean Energy Choice funds contingent on a determination by Jason Burbank that either the WWTP or the safety complex have enough of a need for domestic hot water and that the site could accommodate such a system and, if neither of those are viable options, a solar hot air system at Hillcrest Elementary School if Tim VanEgmond determines there is a need for supplemental space heat during sunny times and there is a viable space to mount the system.

- Jason and Tim will inquire with the appropriate facilities managers and administrative personnel at the three sites.

MEC Meeting Times are now the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 5 to 7.

- Chris will notify Walter (who left meeting at 5:30) and determine a viable meeting space.

MEC goal-setting retreat agenda

Retreat is set for Friday Oct 29 from 9 to 12 at Pam's house. Optional lunch from 12 to 1.

Draft agenda:

- Share committee member's perspectives/passions for potential committee work.
- Brainstorm/list desired long-term goals for the committee
- What are the committee's strengths?
- What are the committee's weaknesses?
- Match potential goals with committee strengths while avoiding committee's weaknesses
- Discussion on how the committee should operate to maintain long-term committee viability

Pam will provide soup, others should bring cheese, crackers, salads, deserts and other munchies to keep us going through the morning.

- Chris will send out links to other committees climate action plans and a CET report on the efforts of four local energy committees prior to the retreat
- Pam will invite Pat Allen
- Chris will invite Walter
- Tim will invite David Dempsey
- Pam will invite David Detmold
- Tim will invite Paul Lipke

