

Minutes 9/30/14 Montague Energy Committee

Present – Members, Chris Mason, Richard Adams, Pam Hanold, Tim Van Egmond, Jeff Singleton.

Chris moved Minutes for Aug. 12 meeting be approved, with revisions. Richard seconded, vote carried.

\*\*\*\*\*

1. FRTA Discussion led by Jeff Singleton

A recommendation was made to support the select board letter submitted to the FRTA

Some of points made were:

“(At the Transit Advisory Comm. Mtng) they did not address Increasing ridership and the MEC has expressed support for that to happen..

To continue... the oversight committee did not have a quorum yet it was a good meeting because they were supportive of looking into how to increase ridership.

Jeff is pushing for the Select Board and the MEC to do its best to attend to this issue.

Chris noted “I was impressed that Increased Ridership was not part of the CSA process. Meaning it was not even an agenda item. They asked him

“So you are asking to expand the ridership from people that have cars?” Chris responded “YES!”

Chris moved that the MEC recommend to the FRTA to establish a committee to make recommendations by March 31, 2014 as to how to increase ridership considering people who do or do not have cars; with the intention to reduce dependency on fossil fuels. All were in favor.

Jeff continued the proposal for changing routes included some ideas to reduce runs to Turners Falls, eliminates Rt 22, and doubling Leveret stops among other points.

“RT 22 runs 8 times a day and Montague is assessed for 90% of the costs at present.”

In the end revising, rethinking about redesigning and supporting increasing ridership should be an imperative and essential discussion heeding attention.

\*\*\*\*\*

2. Pipeline

Jeff spoke to the ISO documents publicly available and expressed concerns about the Berwick letter gets its data and we all were questioning the claims of not having enough supply during times of Peak Demand. National Grid has announced rates rising 37% soon.

Chris also made a point of how Japan now with its initiative to stop using nuclear power and of course LNG supply lines on the global market are seeing rising prices accordingly. Sally's draft letter was read aloud and discussion ensued with intent to send her thoughts independently for possible edits. The approved copy sent to Berwick will be posted.

Pam noted that

<http://www.nofrackedgasinmass.org/>

seems to be the best source of information about the proposed pipeline discussions

.....

3. Chris informally proposed a petition to both final candidates for Governor clearly addressing the current laws enacted and implemented by the present administration empowered by the Green Communities Act. Including noting Patrick's dedication as a national leader and how do they plan to continue Massachusetts presence.

---

Main Points

- 1 Continuing the leadership of Gov. Patrick on a national level
  - 2 Continuing support of 135+ more Green Communities.
  - 3 Continuing the laws enacted as such.
  - 4 "Are you willing to further Massachusetts top level status?"
- 

\*\*\*\*\*

4. Hillcrest-Sheffield School

The School board and the Board of Selectmen have signed off on entering the buildings into the Green Communities reduction Plan. Walter Ramsey has let us (MEC) know to adjust the baseline. Now Montague has to supply the pertinent data and providing needed information to adjust Montague's overall performance.

Chris noted: When this is complete, the MEC will support how to acquire technical assistance from the DOER.

---

5. Other topics

Pumpkinfest 2014: OCT 18, 2014

MEC will man a table at site #21 at 5<sup>th</sup> ave and Ave A.

Tim is taking care of scheduling.

---