

## Minutes MEC Meeting Nov. 18, 2014

Present – Pam Hanold, Chris Mason, Sally Pick, Jeff Singleton, Tim Van Egmond. Jeff had to leave at 7 to cover a Select Board meeting for the Montague Reporter.

1. School energy efficiency grants. Chris reported that Owner's Agent grants have been used up for this year. He spoke with Jim Barry of the DOER, who proposed we could approach things through the Sapphire program. Chris would like to get Jim B., Bart Bales, Walter R., possibly Supt. Michael Sullivan together along with someone from MEC to work out the best approach. At least Jim and Walter.

Sally will check with Jim B. to see if he's available soon and if he's open to having a meeting. If so, she'll check with people about when they could meet.

2. Minutes from Oct. 28 meeting: after additions and edits from Sally, minutes were approved as revised.

3. FRTA: Jeff is trying to organize meeting between town and FRTA, first or second week of December. Is experiencing some difficulties.

4. Draft letter to Ann Berwick about gas pipeline. Moved and seconded to accept letter as written. Proposed to cc Mathew Beaton, incoming Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Approved by unanimous vote.

5. Energy Efficiency Outreach:

Still waiting on Mass CEC grants.

Read letter drafted by Claire Chang on Environment Mass. Template on behalf of select board to Governor-Elect Baker re: increasing solar energy to 20 percent of our power by 2025. Chris commented – great idea but he'd like broader focus to include energy efficiency. Also not coming from Environment Massachusetts, but rather coalition of Town Energy Committees, etc. Everyone in Committee welcome to revise the draft.

6. Solar proposal from Walter: 14 acre section of landfill for over 1 MW array. \$20,000 to Town going up incrementally right away. 20 yr. Lease with right to extend for 10 years. If not wanted at end, Town can have it for \$10, or company will dismantle and take it away.

Discussion- this is a little better than previous offers. However, how real is this? Is financing in place? Could Town put out new RFQ?

Chris will call Walter, let him know this might all fall through, suggest possibility of Town sending out new RFP. Sense of committee is that on the whole this would be a good thing if Town feels it's in their best interest economically.

7. Energy Efficiency Outreach – suggestion from Tim that we reach out to HVAC installers to promote MassSave, rebates, etc.

8. Chris announced that Thurs. Dec. 11 at 7:30 PM there will be a Film and discussion –“ Joanna Macy and the Great Turning” at Unitarian Church in Amherst Center.

9. Discussion of responsibilities of Committee, making sure agenda and minutes go out, etc. Each meeting could begin with designation a facilitator and a scribe. Committee decided to submit agenda for next meeting before current meeting is over (internet connection permitting). Committee will try to assign a “taskmaster” to check with members on progress on their action items in between meetings. We discussed the idea of meeting once a month rather than twice when possible.

10. Agenda for next meeting: agenda was sent in.