

Minutes Montague Energy Committtee Meeting July 15, 2015, Downstairs Meeting Room

Present – Chris Mason, Richard Adams, Sally Pick, Jeff Singleton, Tim Van Egmond and guests Jim Huber, Joanne Blier from School Dept., Linda Hickman from Library.

Designate facilitator, scribe, action item checker: Chris, facilitator, Tim taking minutes.

Minutes from June 16, 2015 meeting: minutes were approved.
MEC members will look for minutes from 5/12 meeting.

Town Energy Issues

Sheffield School Boiler -

Chris reported on email reply to his questions that Walter sent about timeline for Municipal Energy Technical Assistance grant from DOER. Grant is under review by DOER. Upon award of grant town will send a notice to proceed with the audit within 2 weeks. Energy audit for Sheffield expected to take as part of engineering study (is 4 months really necessary?). Hoping that schedule for Shea work can be moved up to allow Town to apply for Green Communities grant in 2016 for upgrading heating at School.

School has received MSBA green light on window work.

Shea Theater

Bart Bales was contracted by Town to make HVAC specifications to go to contractors. Insulation expected to be installed in Spring. Shea program must be completed before town can apply for new Green Communities grant (probably in March).

Montague Center Library -

Ongoing mold issues, losing a lot of books, concern about health issues. Dirt crawl space major cause – recommendation: start with sealing off by laying plastic down. Not a level floor. Dehumidifier running, not making much of a difference. North wall gets it the worst. New roof leak reported a few days ago, losing slates, needs new roof.

Discussion of regrading East side (preferably have DPW do the work). Crushed stone over plastic?

Problem with crawl space in Millers Falls Library too.

Building staffed only 16 hours per week.

Linda will contact CET for MassSave Audit, see how much they can help. Perhaps one of committee members can be there.

Tech School – Sally won't invite new Tech School rep yet. To be discussed at next meeting.

FRTA

Jeff reported on newly completed Comprehensive Service Analysis and FRCOG draft plan. FRCOG consolidated routes, but increased frequency raises costs. FRTA report doesn't recommend increasing

ridership base of system, contradicting recommendations of MEC and state environmental policies.

Jeff proposed a statement to FRCOG about regional transportation draft plan, which he'll write up and send in. Motion made and seconded to approve Jeff's statement (see attached).

Jeff will also draft a letter to FRTA, speaking on own behalf.

Proposed Natural Gas Pipeline

Chris referred to public comment to DPU by MEC opposing precedent agreement between Berkshire Gas Co. and DPU. Felt letter should be distributed as widely as possible (forward to Senators and Congressman, Reporter, Recorder, Board of Selectmen, Mass Plan and No Fracked Gas).

Jeff said DPU and FERC process doesn't address broader energy issues. Public comment that was to FERC said its criteria on record is 15 years old.

Update on FRCOG outreach/marketing RFP.

No new information.

Agenda for next meeting: Chris will compile agenda and submit tomorrow.