

Montague Energy Committee

Town Hall, 2nd Floor Meeting Room, 7-8:30M

Present: Chris Mason, Sally Pick, Ariel Elan, Pam Hanold.

Chris facilitating; Sally taking minutes.

Approved minutes from 4/3/19

Designate facilitator and scribe: Chris facilitator; Sally scribe.

DPW Building

- Jason in contact with mechanical engineer working on HVAC.
- 3-part HVAC system: heat pump water heater also connected to oil boiler for hydronic heating and separate VRF electric system for heating/cooling staff spaces.
- MA CEC currently running out of funds for ASHP grants for municipalities.
- Ariel connected Eversource with Jason to explore incentives for energy efficiency and renewables.
- Design will make infrastructure available for EV chargers. Eversource will cover the cost of running the distribution line to the charger and probably part of the cost of the charger.

Outdoor lighting upgrades to LED

- Received 4 proposals, all high prices.
- Chris met with Turners Falls Fire District May 7.
- Removed requirement to audit lights from RFQ; will instead base quote on spreadsheet inventory of lights.
 - Will re-issue RFQ with new requirements and also ask for quote to include GIS of spreadsheet data.

Heating system options for Sheffield/Hillcrest school buildings

- Tom Bowman, of Bowman Engineering from Northfield, will provide town with a letter of interest to describe a scope of work that he can do for \$12,500, with the META grant funds.

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

- UMass Clean Energy Extension students made a presentation with their recommendations on the school buildings' heating systems.
- Hillcrest Elementary School is 34,438 square feet; a previous architectural sketch had it very undersized.

Report on CIC meeting if there was one since last meeting

- No meeting.

Engaging landlords & tenant in energy efficiency

- Sally reported that program for landlords and tenants scheduled for June 6th, 6-7:15pm at Great Falls Discovery Center.

Free Eversource EV public chargers for Turners Falls & Millers Falls

- Tim waiting for info from the DMV about numbers of EVs and plug-in hybrids in the 5 villages.
- Pam spoke with several people in town re locations for EV chargers. Walter recommends, in order of highest to lowest priority:
 - Discovery Center
 - Unity Park
 - Peskeomski Park near playground
 - Behind town hall
 - Canal St. of lot (old sculpture park)

And explore for DPW building.

- FRCOG has a technical assistance grant for EV chargers.
- Sally has emailed Stephanie Ciccarelli, sustainability coordinator in Amherst, questions about their experience with ChargePoint chargers and ongoing costs.
- Chris spoke with Stephanie about them, and she seemed to think that they're sturdy chargers.
- Chris has data on ChargePoint ongoing costs from his work in Northampton.

Energy expeditors: A town administrator issue, not an energy committee issue.

Discuss possible revisions to solar bylaws

- Sally spoke with a Northampton resident on Climate Action Now who is working on revising their large-scale ground-mounted zoning requirements.
- Concern about commercial PV companies removing large acres of trees prior to applying for PV approval, to get around tree removal limits.
- Montague's new zoning regulations do not include a lookback requirement; Sally recommends asking that the zoning regulations be amended to include this lookback requirement.
- State has regulations that are supposed to restrict this practice, but state isn't enforcing requirements.
- Montague may be able to draw from Northampton's revisions and may make recommendations to the planning committee.

Town buildings and energy infrastructure, including Sally's list of town energy projects: Tabled.

Recommending a lifecycle analysis policy and solar-ready roofs for new buildings: removed from agenda.

Discuss future directions, priorities of committee, building membership

Plan agenda for next meeting

Other topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Votes may be taken

Action items:

- Chris will share ChargePoint cost information that he has from Northampton.
- Sally will contact Turners landlords re speaking at June 6 event. She will talk with town assessor to try to find landlords to reach out to for event.
- Chris will send agenda.
- Tim will send 4/3/19 minutes to town contacts.

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 5, 2019 at 6:30pm.