

MONTAGUE ENERGY COMMITTEE MINUTES
Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Present: Sally Pick, Tim Van Egmond, Ariel Elan, Pam Hanold, Jason Burbank, Chris Mason.
Guest: Bob Rueter.

Designate facilitator and scribe: Sally, scribe; Chis & Tim, facilitators.

Approved minutes from September 21, 2021, MEC meeting, with amendments requested.

State level energy-related policies and legislation

- 100% Clean Act, Select Board and Town Meeting re: endorsement
 - Pam concerned with asking select board to support such a complex bill.
- Municipal Sign-On Letter for Green Future Act.

Energy Related Facility Updates

- Outdoor lighting upgrades to LED
 - Chris has been in touch with Eversource contact, Kim Kiernan, about LED lighting program incentives to purchase LED lamps.
 - 1st get quote from Eversource for cost to buy LED fixtures.
 - Program funds currently set to end at end of year.
 - Tim was able to reach contact, Dave Leh, in Montague Center Lighting District.
 - Difficult for lighting district to find funds for buying lights, poles, and other ongoing expenses.
 - Performance contract wouldn't work because would have additional costs: buy old fixtures, maintain them, storage, dealing with problems with LEDs ongoing.
 - May be challenging to collaborate with other districts for joint maintenance.
 - Other lighting districts have higher rates than MCLD; MCLD seems disinclined to raise its rates.
 - MC Lighting District plans to turn off around 26 lights.
 - Would still be charged by Eversource, but charged at lower rate.
 - Chris had conversation with George Woodbury, Light Smart Energy consultant, who did report on TF and MC lights.

- George thinks MCLD could take out tax-exempt municipal lease to cover additional costs
 - He will outline financing scenario for changing to LEDs soon.
- Ventilation: how to support energy efficiency and air quality together.
 - Jason has emailed Heath Cummings asking if ventilation that is now running in schools turns on and off as needed.
 - Will try to reach him on the phone.

Announcements (no discussion): None.

Other topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting

- Chris would like to step down as chair of energy committee.
 - What are responsibilities of chair(s)?
 - Facilitate organizing agenda, submit agenda to town, be point person for others to get in touch with committee, make sure that necessary tasks are done such as taking minutes and running meetings, general oversight, review agenda in advance to assess what want to get out of meeting.
 - Will add to agenda for further discussion next meeting.

• **Next meeting: November 23, 2021, 4:30pm**

Action items:

- Chris will send to Sally Northampton letter in support of Green Future Act as possible template for Montague.
- Sally will draft sign-on letters for Green Future Act and 100% Clean Act, for MEC to discuss.
- Jason will call Heath Cummings to ask if schools are able to schedule ventilation in school buildings.
- Bob will look to see if *100 for 100%* story Environment Massachusetts campaign is still active, and, if so, he wants to discuss this at next meeting.
- Tim and Chris will ask the Montague Center Lighting District to convene a meeting once more information gathered from George Woodbury and Eversource on financing LED lights.