

MEAC Attendance: Karl Johnson, Amanda Sardonis, Mark Seltzer, Ken Jones,
Amy Gamble, Tim Favorite, Geoff FitzGerald
Other Attendance: Chris Lumbra, Sal Alfano, Mike Miller

Public Comment

None

Upcoming Events

Window Dressers 11/8-13, looking for sign ups

Revisions to Energy Chapter of Municipal Plan

Mike Miller announces Planning Commission has had public input. Received comments from Kate and others on energy. There are two parts: storyboard and implementation plan. Last revision was 2018, has not been changed since. Kate's comment was that the Net Zero 2030 plan was not incorporated. Goals written as bite size steps used to achieve our aspirations. Two groups: municipal (2030), and citywide (2050). For 2030, used some of what Kate had recommended, filtered down to a smaller number of goals. (1) reduce base energy use in municipal buildings and schools through efficiency updates, (2) reduce fossil fuel use by fuel conversions, (3) all vehicles used by city & schools will be powered by renewables. Mike has sought input from Kate and Karl separately, and he and Planning Commission would like MEAC's input at large. Ultimately the Commission will make the final vote on this, but will take MEAC's input into account. Question: does the planning commission have any purview over the schools? Answer: no, but it can be helpful to have it as a reminder that this needs to happen. In implementation plan, want to document all the potential tools at our disposal to accomplish the goals. These include: plans, permits, programs, projects, policies. Ken: biodiesel access - can we access? It is hard to find and slightly more expensive. Mike and Karl will work on sending the plan in writing to all of MEAC so that they can weigh in next meeting.

Quorum discussion

Karl has contacted the city for clarity on what constitutes a quorum, and has gotten some mixed messages, but city believes that we have a total of 13 members. Karl proposes that we downsize to 10 full time members and potentially 2 alternates. Ken proposes going to 11, as the quorum size would be the same. He also suggests alternates be voting members until we have a meeting size of 11. Karl will send out charter language to solicit suggestions that can be discussed at the next meeting, where MEAC may also discuss petitioning council to amend charter.

Sustainability Coordinator update

DH controls fixed and DH started on schedule October 1. With that complete, electrician is back to replacing bulbs with LED. Current at Water Resource Recovery Facility and next will update Senior Center. Have been awarded Thermal Energy grant for the Rec Center, and is under review by VEIC legal team. Engineering Design in early state (rough sketch) and would be interested in getting MEAC's feedback. System will be designed for the Rec Center as it exists today but could be modified should the usage of the building change. Subgrant agreement

expected within weeks. Construction next summer. First phase of asbestos removal complete. GMP charging equipment nearly set up in lot next to Drawing Board. DPW solids dryer heating loop set up between equipment barn and WRRF should reduce oil usage.

Working Group updates

Window Dressers will be building over 300 inserts. windowdressers.org and navigate to Barre and sign up to volunteer:

<https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/1183403598035/false#/invitation>

Geoff has update on Log Road array. He researched purchase option agreements. Service date was December 2016. Our next options are 10 and 15 years, must provide notice 120 days before. If we purchase it on one of these dates, we do not have to make payments beyond then. Question about whether this is worthwhile, does it make any difference to energy usage or cost? More work needs to be done, questions for city staff and array owners.

Ken: city put in grant with Barre to extend District Heat.