

Montpelier Energy Advisory Committee
Minutes of meeting 7/16/19

Committee members attending:

- Jose Aguayo
- Diana Chace, Secretary
- Donald deVoil
- Geoff Fitzgerald
- Amy Gamble, Vice Chair
- Karl Johnson
- Dan Jones
- Peter Luyckx
- Kate Stephenson, Chair

Approve minutes from June meeting

Geoff Fitzgerald moved to approve June minutes. Dan Jones seconded. Motion carried.

Opportunity for public comment

No public comment.

Outreach regarding weatherization opportunities and funding

During this year's legislative session, the legislature increased weatherization funding. A member of the Montpelier housing task force has asked Dan Jones if MEAC could work with the housing task force to promote the new weatherization opportunities. Efficiency Vermont was expected to release details of the new programs today. By next month's meeting, we should know more.

Working Group Updates

Policy and Planning:

The Policy and Planning Working Group has been working on three areas:

1. Developing a new efficiency ordinance. Members of the working group and other MEAC members met in late June with Richard Faesy of Energy Futures Group, Sue Allen of the City of Montpelier, and Phoebe Howe of Efficiency Vermont to discuss developing a new ordinance requiring efficiency disclosures when a building is listed for sale. A meeting with local realtors is planned for Friday, July 26, at 8:30 am. A public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 20, at 6 pm. The public meeting will immediately precede the regularly scheduled MEAC meeting.

2. Exploring a program to enable community members to financially contribute to local projects that reduce carbon. The Policy and Planning Working Group met with Deborah Messing to further explore developing a mechanism to enable community members to voluntarily contribute to local projects that reduce carbon emissions or sequester carbon, with the amount of the contribution possibly based on the individual's carbon footprint. The next step will be to create a conceptual vision document.
3. Developing an energy plan to be included in the city plan.

Window dressers:

Assembly and distribution of window inserts will take place January 13-19 at the Hub at the Berlin Mall. Volunteers with basic carpentry skills are needed for the event.

Transportation:

VTrans has applied to the Federal Transit Administration for funding to support a 2-3 year microtransit pilot program in Montpelier. The program would launch next year, after receiving legislative approval. Individuals seeking rides could request service via phone or computer. Software would dynamically route the service by coordinating requests for rides from many individuals.

Municipal:

The municipal working group is investigating options for what to do with the biogas from the wastewater treatment plant, and will present options and recommendations to the city council.

Dan Jones moved to adjourn, and Geoff Fitzgerald seconded. Motion carried.