

Montpelier Energy Advisory Committee
Minutes of meeting 1/21/20

Committee members attending:

- Jose Aguayo
- Diana Chace, Secretary
- Donald deVoil
- Jared Duval
- Geoff Fitzgerald
- Amy Gamble, Vice Chair
- Dan Jones
- Ken Jones
- Kate Stephenson, Chair
- Anne Watson

Addition to agenda

Dan: climate action film festival

Jared: the state's latest emissions inventory (if time)

Anne: city council will be putting together a legislative agenda

Approval of minutes

Notes from December don't require approval as there was no quorum and therefore it wasn't an official meeting. The December notes failed to mention that Geoff had offered to give input on the legal implications of the proposed efficiency disclosure ordinance.

Dan moved to approve the November minutes and Amy seconded. Motion approved.

Opportunity for public comment

There was no public comment.

Climate emergency resolution review and feedback

The committee reviewed and discussed the draft emergency resolution that was created by a group of Montpelier students. The student group is planning to bring this proposal to city council in February. Some committee members raised concerns about specific language and framing in the draft resolution.

Diana moved that MEAC communicate to city council:

- we are pleased and excited that this group has brought this forward;
- this is a terrific conversation that the city and the community need to have,; and
- MEAC is committed to working with city staff to create the plans to meet the 2030 and 2050 goals.

Jared seconded. Motion approved.

Debrief from Window Dressers

The Window Dressers Montpelier community build session was a big success. The group assembled 130 window inserts for 29 households, including 10 low-income households. More than 50 volunteers participated. Other towns considering their own builds sent representatives to work a shift. It was exciting to see how many towns are thinking of doing this next year. We have already received good feedback on how effective people are finding the window inserts.

Possible plans for next year's community build were discussed. Ken volunteered to be food coordinator for next year. Amy wondered if for next year it would make sense to have 1 big build for multiple towns. We will need a bigger core group (beyond just Amy and Donald) if we're going to do a big build. There was good coverage of the build in the Times Argus. We need to collect testimonials to bring more people in next year.

Working group updates

Municipal

City council is going to get a presentation this Thursday on what to do with the gas from the wastewater treatment plant. Three options were considered, and two of them clearly didn't make economic sense. The combined-heat-and-power option looks very good. We hope to qualify for a special VEPPI contract that will generate \$80,000/year above and beyond debt service, but even if we don't get the special contract, it's about a break-even project.

Assuming that the project qualifies for the VEPPI contract, the committee discussed whether the revenue that the project generates could be designated for energy-saving improvements to meet the city's 2030 and 2050 net-zero goals.

Policy and Planning

The committee saw a new draft of the proposed energy efficiency disclosure ordinance and a new sellers' guide, which will give property owners detailed instructions on how to comply with the ordinance. The working group plans to present the drafts to City Council on February 12. The current schedule calls for the ordinance to take effect in January 2021. The working group is planning more outreach to realtors before the proposal is presented to City Council.

Upcoming events

Energy Action Network is hosting a panel tomorrow night to discuss the Global Warming Solutions Act, including panelists from Maine and Massachusetts, where similar laws have been adopted.

Other business

Sun Common has put together a Climate Action Film Festival and has planned showings in Burlington and Middlebury. Sustainable Montpelier has asked for a Montpelier showing as well. The festival includes nine short films (totaling ninety minutes) featuring people taking positive action on climate. Dan asked if MEAC can support the effort. Ken moved that MEAC allow its name to be attached to the film festival, and Geoff seconded. Motion approved. The event will probably happen in late February or March.

The discussion of the latest emissions inventory was postponed until next month.

Dan moved to adjourn. Geoff seconded. Approved.