

Monkton Energy Committee Meeting  
Monkton Town Hall  
June 17, 2015  
Final Minutes

Members Present: Jay Frater, Nate Palmer, Lee Kauppila, Ben Raphael, Chris Skees, Pete Dufault

Others Present: None

Call to Order: Jay Frater called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

Announcements: None

The meeting minutes follow the generally follow the agenda for the MEC meeting on this date, see the underlined topics below.

2. Issues related to the select board, MEC position introductions

The MEC welcomed Lee Kauppila and Chris Skees to their first MEC meeting, they were both appointed to the MEC at the Select Board meeting on June 8. Lee is a member of the Hogback Forest and Chris has some energy ideas and was previously employed as an organic farmer and currently working as a web designer. Welcome Lee and Chris!

3. Municipal Solar Arrays

The goal with MSA's are to offset the town energy bill with solar electricity. Apparently one key investor has fallen through with ACORN energy, more information from Peter Carouthers will be obtained through Jay. Suncommon is interested in applying for the work. A RFP from interested parties should be obtained for this solar work. Ben will ask his contact about solar work in the future. John Kelliher's name/residence was mentioned as a possible site for a CSA.

4. Energy Plan

Middlebury has a model plan that could be followed for Monkton. There is an energy section in the town survey, Jay will get back to us with info on a survey.

5. Wood bank

Nate was wondering if the town could cover insurance in the event of an accident associated with work on the wood bank. Lincoln or Ripton stockpile wood and residents come and get it when the need arises. Project HOPE can be used to help determine needy families in our area, Nate can connect Lee with this organization. We need to establish a location for a wood bank in Monkton. The area near the town garage was mentioned as a possible site, yet a location to store wood needs to be finalized. Lee will hopefully contact John McNerny to ask about insurance. One question to find out will be to determine if there is an additional cost to the town due to increased insurance liability. Another step in establishing a wood bank will be to have it pass the Select Board.

6. Municipal Building Audits Updates AND 8. Portfolio manager on EPA site

Ben will look into this, he will need a username and password from Jay. The data regarding the school is in this EPA database.

7. PACE

The PACE funding program requires a lot of paperwork and most people have elected to seek other funding sources for home repairs or renovations. Jay will contact Fran to see if they have similar results in Weybridge as we do here in Monkton.

9. Energy Efficiency/ connection with Monkton Church

Lee is connected with the church and community regarding energy work. He can be used as a conduit to get information out to the town on topics related to energy.

10. VEEP

The presentation scheduled for the spring at the Monkton Central School did not take place. The event was intended to educate 6th graders on home energy efficiency projects. The VEEP Presentation did not take place due to a bandwidth or technical issue between the school and the presenter's equipment. Pete will look into this problem to see if it can take place at a later date.

11. Solar Tour

Yes, the MEC determined it would be good to host a solar tour of homes in our area. This would encourage growth to the solar industry and Jay will try and get a tour set up.

12. Alternative Transportation Options

Steve on the Select board will handle this.

13. VECAN Solar Challenge

There is a Solar Challenge similar to the Home Energy Challenge that the MEC spearheaded. These 'challenges' encourage the local towns to compete against each other for prizes and recognition based upon participation in green energy or home upgrades.

14. Heat Pump Workshop

We could get a few contractors who install heat pumps to give an informational brief on heat pumps. The event could take place at the Monkton FD sometime this summer. Ben can get in touch with his contact to see if there is interest in a presentation.

Other info: Chris agreed to do some work on the town plan. Jay said he will get him information on this.

Next Meeting: July 15, 2015 7:00 PM in the Town Hall

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made Jay at 8:35 PM, seconded by Chris. The motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pete Dufault