

Monkton Energy Committee Meeting
Monkton Town Hall
Date: May 14, 2014, 7:00 PM

Members Present: Jay Frater, Nate Palmer, Becky Gould and Pete Dufault
Others Present: John Willson
Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM by Jay

Jay made a motion to accept the March minutes, seconded by Nate.

We discussed moving the meeting date to the 1st, 2nd or 4th Wednesday each month.

There is an open position on the MEC, Nate will ask Harry Atkinson to see if he is interested. John W. will send an email to the SB to become an official member of the MEC. John went to the Town Fair and said it was lightly attended, with questions mostly about the pipeline.

Insulation has been installed in the town garage. Heating can be tracked with the portfolio manager, on the EPA website. Jay stated that it is current except for the past 6 months. John and Jay can get together and enter more data. Our school costs about 15% more to heat as compared to other schools in this area that are of similar size. Tracking heating costs with the portfolio manager of the energy usage would be good documentation if it gets insulated in the future, the savings could be tracked.

ACRPC update: voted to approve the pipeline.

VEEP at school, Jay met with Susan Stewart, the Principal at Monkton Elementary School. Susan will take a leave of absence next year. If Pete hears of a replacement for next year, he will contact Jay to see if a VEEP presentation can be fit in to the curriculum next year.

The Vermont Land Trust has approved putting solar panels on conserved land. Cornwall is doing municipal solar (group net metering). Nate will call contacts and see if Monkton can join Cornwall on the municipal solar. Cornwall could be looking for investors, and this could be an alternative to solar at Morse Park.

PACE is all signed and approved. This may be advertised on FPF and the town website. Jay will look into this and see if it's feasible.

Pelletco can provide a boiler at no charge, provided pellets are purchased through them for the following 10 years. There is a 3% compounded interest each year, and at the end of 10 years the rate would be pretty high. We would be better off with a 10 year bond. Nate (?) is looking into this for the school.

Woodbank, Nate called Warren King of Ripton, and they have a Ripton Energy Assistance Program (REAP) set up. They work through project HOPE to handle funds. They have a 10K annual budget to run the program. Donations are accepted and fundraising takes place. They have about 17 cords stored in their woodbank. Wood is provided to those in need at about 50% of the going rate. Liability is not a problem, they consider themselves 'old goats' and have not had any major issues. Wood is given to them by road crews and donations

Several towns such as Middlebury, Weybridge, Montpelier, Waterbury (possibly others) have an Energy Plan built into their Town Plan. This could be done in Monkton and it makes the Energy Plan more powerful. Monkton could have a vision statement for Energy that is consistent with town and state plans. We need to research other town plans to get ideas for this. John Willson, John McNerny, Wendy Sue and or Jay would need to get involved with getting the town plan to include an energy plan.

An Energy Event is not planned at this time.

Kathy Boyer wanted to know if we would endorse the Environmental YERT film – Yes we will. A link to the film will be sent out.

Energy Efficiency and Monkton Church, another way to connect people on the energy topics. The group, Vermont Interfaith Power and Light (VTIPL) is a good resource and energy audits can usually be performed at reduced rates. Ralph Fitzgerald is active in the church and would be a good POC for Becky to contact.

Adjournment: Jay made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 PM, Pete seconded it and the meeting was adjourned.