

Monkton Energy Committee Notes
Monkton Town Hall
December 14, 2016
Final Minutes

Members Present: Chris Skees, Jay Frater, Lee Kauppila and Pete Dufault

Others Present: Steve Pilcher, Bill Kuhns

Call to Order: 7:08 PM by Jay Frater.

Announcements: None.

Minutes review: The November minutes were accepted as amended and will be made final and posted to the town website.

Steve Pilcher had some comments on the Energy Plan (EP), as indicated here: Steve said the EP contains great information and commented that it must have taken a lot of work to accomplish this. Other SB members have reviewed this EP as well. His comment on the energy survey was out of the 141 respondents, about 2,200 Monkton residents, the confidence interval is ~8% with a 95% confidence level. So, it is safe to say that our survey of 141 residents, about 95% of the town would respond as indicated in the town survey. Home heat sources of wood heat may be lower than actual amounts due to banks and listers not tabulating wood heat as they are concerned with other heat sources.

The EP would read better if it said that the town of Monkton will do 'X' rather than the MEC stating that they will do 'X'.

New state buildings, residential, and commercial buildings have to be built to Energy Standards, all specific to their building type.

Steve would like to start a vanpool and would like to have help with getting it going.

Geothermal heat pumps came up and it was unknown if they are considered a renewable resource or not. RECs would preferably stay in town or the state. We can state our preferences but we can't say "can't do something".

There are 9 items listed such as flora, fauna, etc., and how are all these aspects impacted by wind energy?

Non-renewable energy sources: For all new energy projects, renewable energy sources should be considered.

There are 4 criteria for this and the town will decide on the last criteria.

1. Transportation: The criteria for installing the new park-n-ride in the lower lot of the school was that it needed to be lit and have 15 or more parking spaces.

2. The original plans had a charging station for electric vehicles, but GMP said 'no' as its not considered an 'end' destination.

3. Property Tax on Renewable Energy: the taxable amount does not increase if solar (i.e.) panels are added to a house.

4. The next step for the EP is to get it to the Planning Commission.

Chris commented on Act 174 indicating that it has two tiers:

1. PSB review

2. Substance deference, meaning that the plans go to another tier that has more stipulations. Additional mapping is usually required, to determine what types of projects/buildings will fit in the landscape.

Steve said the ACRP could help and maps often depict where good solar sites can be located. Chris made a comment about a biodigester and where it could be located.

Electric usage for an average VT home is 569 kw/hrs/month as compared with 900 kw/hrs/month for the US.
(Steve departed)

Chris will look at Steve's edits and incorporate his comments into the EP. The State Comprehensive Energy Plan from pages 400 - 410 really pushes Natural Gas but why? It should be renewable.

Woodbank

Lee spoke about the woodbank and mentioned that it could be advertised in the Addison County Independent newspaper. Lee will follow up with Willowell for a response to a grant opportunity.

Portfolio Manager

Bill mentioned that the Boy Scouts could enter the data as a project.

Low Income Solar

There are very efficient low income homes that are becoming available.

MEC Personnel

Bill Kuhns was present and is interested in becoming a MEC member. John Dunham (Blittersdorf/All Earth Renewables) is interested in joining the MEC.

Next Meeting January 18, 2017 at 7:00 PM

Adjournment

Pete made a motion to close the meeting and it was seconded by Jay at 8:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Pete Dufault