

Monkton Energy Committee Notes  
Monkton Town Hall  
November 15, 2017  
Final Minutes

Members Present: Lee Kauppila, Nate and Jane Palmer and Pete Dufault

Others Present: Alex from Willowell, Ivor and Steve Yates (Peck Electric)

Call to Order: 7:02 by Nate

Announcements: None.

Minutes review: None reviewed at this time.

Topics for the meeting: Woodbank, Town Plan, Solar, Survey, MEC Budget

Woodbank

Lee can get some locust from Larry Geno and organize a work party. Some wood has been cut and split and there is more to be processed. There are about 4 locations of donated wood, to be moved to Willowell with a total of about 8 cords. Last year money was donated for the Woodbank account, it would be nice to have more money donated as there is only about \$300 in the account now.

Town Plan

(Ivor) The last time the town plan was updated was 2014. The town Energy Plan can be obtained from Sharon. Hope to have the EP wrapped up by the summer of 2018 to get it into the town plan for 2019. The EP will have to go through hearings and get approved by the select board, then voted on in 2019. The energy section in the town plan were passed out at the meeting. Lots of stats are included in the 2015 plan, will these but included in the final edition of the Energy Plan? How are energy improvement ideas quantified in plan, how are they tracked and are we meeting goals were some of the questions that came up. In Shorham dams were put on the Otter Creek, an energy usage tax was used so the town got a revenue source from the hydro power. Ivor left at 7:40 PM.

Solar

Steve Yates of Peck Electric joined the meeting at 7:10 to discuss the possibility of solar panels on the school or somewhere in town. Peck Electric has installed solar panels on about 3,500 homes so far. MCS has 3-phase power and a standing seam roof that would be good for solar panels. 3-Phase power is ideal for efficiency. The town could purchase the power from a 3rd party, pay it off in 7-8 years and then there would be no capitol outlay. All utility accounts could go into one account and one array at the school could cover all town bills as a consolidation effort. The solar panels do not have to be located on the school grounds. Section 2.0 rules may be in effect for siting, mitigation, etc. and panels generally can't go in open fields. Panels could go on Brownfields sites that were previously contaminated. Ideal solar locations is where the population is denser, as opposed to out in rural areas. An investor could get a 30% tax credit for this project. A one acre plot can generally get about 150 KW of power. Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) were sold out of state at one point but now they remain with a utility.

There is a flat area near Hinesburg Sand and Gravel, could panels be located there? Nate to get a total of all town electric bills and prints of the school to Steve. A Peck Electric engineer can review the prints to see if the school roof could support solar panels. Air conditioning and heat pumps could be looked at to see if they could be accommodated with the solar panels. There is a 10% reduction in the power bill. At 8:10 Steve left the meeting.

Survey

Nate to get out to residents where the NG line may go. It could be mailed out with MEC money or Nate could go door-to-door. This survey can be reviewed by MEC members before going out.

Budget

Increase our MEC budget by \$150/year to \$400 annually? We can ask for this in the budget.

Other

Nate to get MEC contacts to Alex at Willowell. New email for Nate: nbpalmer@outlook.com

Next Meeting December 20, 2017 at 7:00 PM

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Pete Dufault