



**Montpelier Energy Advisory Committee**

**Minutes 3/19/19**

City Hall, Montpelier VT

Present: Kate Stephenson, Dan Costin, Donald deVoil, Karl Johnson, Dan Jones, Geoff Fitzgerald, Bill Chidsey (guest), Phillip Picotte (guest), Johanna Miller, Lauren Hierl (City Council), Diana Chance

Meeting called to order 7:03.

1. Introductions
2. Approve February minutes: Did not have quorum.
3. Opportunity for public comment. No comments.
4. Updates on new strategic initiatives:

Project	Point Person
WWTP – Make biogas project happen No report.	GMF
Use revolving loan fund for municipal efficiency projects. Municipal team has still been following up on the Fire Station snow melt loop.	KS
Eliminate fossil fuel use in district heat (summer). No report	BC
Explore use of biodiesel and electric vehicles in municipal fleet. Dan and Geoff have been doing research and meeting with Eric Ladd and Tom McArdle of DPW. Bourne’s Energy has agreed to put a 1000 gallon tank on DPW property and sell B20 fuel for \$3.11 per gallon. \$500 for tank installation. Renewable Diesel would be better but not available in this area. Renewable diesel has properties similar to #2 Diesel and can be used on all the diesel vehicles. Only about 5000 gallons per year for B20 ready Fords. Tom and Eric have not responded yet. Report is written with recommendation to City.	DPC
Explore fuel switching at schools. Anne Watson send a report through Kate on High School biodiesel. Anne has been talking to Andrew LaRosa. Andrew talked to a school in Rhode Island that switched to biodiesel. No technical problems were uncovered. They stopped due to cost. B20 is probably what would be proposed.	BE
Reduce idling of vehicles. No update.	BEM
Hire a paid energy coordinator. No Report.	KS

Find more money (grants etc). No Report.	KJ
Finalize and get approval of city Energy Plan. No Report.	BC
Develop a MEAC communications plan; Improve quality of information/on-going. No Report.	DJ
Work with city to examine ways to reduce commuter vehicles downtown. Dan Jones - Microtransit - Try to leap over personal cars. On-demand transit will arrive 10-12 minutes and rides will be shared. Routes will be dynamic. West Sacramento system is very popular. 40-50 shared vehicles can supplant 2 thousand personal cars. RFI is out and RFP for microtransit providers from VTRANS will probably go out this summer. Maybe circulator and hospital hill routes replaced by microtransit with help from VTRANS. \$500K buys 8 vehicles running for a couple of years. Via is a possible supplier of this service.	DJ
Explore opportunities for expanding district heat. No Report.	KJ
Promote modern wood heat in community. No Report.	KJ
Encourage weatherization via Window Dressers program. No Report	AG
Engage with property owners to improve efficiency of their buildings. No Report	PM
Workshop for using biodiesel for home heating. No update.	JD

5. Other business.

Phoebe Howe of Efficiency Vermont has been working with Landlords for a couple of months. She is helping with LEDs. Nine walk-throughs have been completed with landlords, hopefully leading to weatherization. Another wave of outreach in April.

Bill Chidsey did walkthru in parks department house in Hubbard Park and has volunteered to do an energy audit of the building. The energy audit report will go to the Parks department and Energy Committee. There are outbuildings there, but right now we want to focus on the house. Not much possibility for additional solar. Ethan Bellevance is the Efficiency Vermont contact for Montpelier.

Legislative Update by Johanna. Weatherization and transportation has been a focus. \$4.5 M came to state from state specific settlements with Volkswagen and Fiat through the AG's office. Governor Scott recommended spending \$1.5M of this money on an EV incentive. Possible

hybrid incentive also. Increasing weatherization funds is a priority, but legislation is not moving and needs nudging from the public. We need to weatherize a lot more houses per year to meet our goal of 90,000 homes by 2025. H423 lifts cap for net metering for schools and municipalities, and is in the Energy and Technology Committee. Joey suggested MEAC sign on to a letter along with other energy committees encouraging H423, and potentially reaching out to other energy committees. We are not meeting carbon emission targets. Some states are moving a Global Warming Solutions Act to more strictly require states to meet their targets. Committee member will be asked to talk at statehouse at some time in the near future on the day set for energy committee outreach.

Article 14 (charter change for energy efficiency) passed by 30 votes on Town Meeting Day. Anne and Kate have been talking to Richard Faesey at Energy Futures Group, who is interested in home energy labelling and Montpelier as a pilot. We are looking for funding sources to support some of Richard's time to help develop ordinances and do community outreach. Next step is making sure the charter change is approved by the legislature this session. We may need to push Warren Kitzmiller to take action. Paul Markowitz may also be helpful in moving ordinances along.

Kate - Cemetery Commission inquired about eliminating gas-powered lawn mowers. Operators have better health. Kate spoke with a representative from AGZA (American Green Zone Alliance) about putting on a workshop about electric lawn mowers for city staff. There are incentives from EVT. Maybe ask other nearby towns and cities to see if they are interested in a workshop.

Kate - Municipal Energy Metrics - Kate and Todd are trying to update data from last year (FY18). Kate went to NESEA conference and learned about cities doing extensive net-zero plans. Kate is looking into better tracking software.

6. Adjourn. Geoff moved to adjourn. Karl seconded. Meeting adjourned 8:40.