

Montpelier Energy Advisory Committee Minutes 5-19-19

Committee members attending:

- Jose Aguayo
- Diana Chace
- Barbara Conrey
- Donald deVoil
- Jared Duval
- Geoff Fitzgerald
- Amy Gamble
- Karl Johnson
- Dan Jones
- Ken Jones
- Peter Luyckx
- Paul Markowitz
- Kate Stephenson
- Anne Watson

Members of the public attending:

- Phillip Pecot

Introductions

Everyone present introduced themselves, including three new committee members. The committee now has 14 voting members, in addition to non-voting members Mayor Anne Watson and Councilor Lauren Hierl. A quorum is 8 voting members.

Minutes of prior meetings

Dan Jones moved to approve minutes from the February meeting, and Geoff Fitzgerald seconded. Motion carried.

The March and April meetings did not reach quorum, and therefore there were no official minutes to approve.

Upcoming event

On Thursday, May 30, at 6:30 pm at the Unitarian Church, Roger Hill will be giving a talk on “Climate Change Comes to Vermont.”

Election of officers

Kate Stephenson proposed a slate of herself as chair, Amy Gamble as vice chair, and Diana Chace as secretary. Dan Jones moved to approve the proposal, and Jared Duval seconded. Approved without dissent. Kate hopes that someone new will take over as chair next year.

Working groups

The committee divided into 4 working groups: municipal, including schools; community, including residential and outreach; policy/planning; and transportation. Paul Markowitz noted that some projects will require coordination between different working groups.

The working groups reported back to the committee on their priorities for the year:

- Municipal
 - What to do with biogas from water plant
 - Eliminate oil use in conjunction with district heat
 - Revolving loan fund
 - Schools – thermal – fuel-switching
 - Electrification of lawn equipment
 - Tracking/reporting municipal energy use
 - Help with hiring process for new facilities director
- Community
 - Feel Good Heat (wood heating)
 - Window Dressers program (volunteers making window inserts)
 - Conversion of home furnaces and boilers to biodiesel
 - Landlord engagement
 - Building efficiency labeling
 - Community outreach
- Policy/planning
 - Plan to reach Montpelier’s net zero goals
 - Charter change regarding building efficiency labeling & follow up on future charter changes
- Transportation
 - Micro-transit
 - Municipal fleet

Legislative action on Montpelier’s charter change

Anne Watson reported that the Vermont House and Senate both approved a revised version of the charter change regarding energy efficiency that Montpelier voters approved on Town Meeting Day. As approved by the legislature, the charter change allows the city to require building efficiency labeling, but does not allow the city to require buildings to comply with minimum building efficiency standards.

Bill details: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2020/Docs/BILLS/H-0547/H-0547%20As%20Passed%20by%20Both%20House%20and%20Senate%20Official.pdf>

Presentation

Preview of presentation to city council tracking municipal energy use.

Adjourn

At 8:35 Paul Markowitz moved to adjourn and Geoff Fitzgerald seconded. Motion passed.