

MEAC minutes 10/20/21

Voting Members present

Kate Stephenson (video), Amy Gamble, Geoff FitzGerald, Donald deVoil, Karl Johnson (phone)  
Dan Jones, Donna Barlow Casey, Tim Favorite, (new member)(video)

Also present Nate Stronkowsky

Business other than Agenda? Dan Jones inquired “What comes next” ...energy issues going to become secondary to sustainability and resilience issues....Donna wants to discuss “budget issues”

Dan moved to approve agenda...Donald seconded...all voted in favor

No comment on notes re prior meeting...no quorum so no minutes

No Public Comment (zoom link available)

Working Grp updates

### **Municipal**

Kate...Introduced Nate and indicated that he was going to help her help Kelly update tracking data for presentation to Council in late Nov. early Dec.

Geoff reported that Kurt and Chris had visited a dryer operation in NC and it was looking like that was going to be the option they want to pursue for use of gas. Preliminary Engineering Report due to be released anyday...Geoff will circulate to committee.

Dan wondered if there will be “extra” gas...Geoff had no idea...the positive of the dryer....year round use...will save the city substantial expenditure on sludge trucking and disposal and will reportedly yield salable product

Donna weigh in on “city budget issues” noting that all project moving forward would have to meet a 3% cap over estimated budget

At the last meeting Lauren questioned whether MEAC should be getting in line for the pot of Covid relief money...apparently there is a meeting tomorrow and Donna confirmed that she would report out to the committee the results of that meeting...MONEY IS TIGHT!

### **Policy and Planning**

There was a meeting at the senior center re energy ordinance...hands on use of labeling software tool

Kate was unsure of the results of that meeting

### **Transportation**

Covid really put a crimp in the MYRide program...people just aren't using public transportation right now

## **Residential**

Measuring for WindowDressers is done...need build teams for 11/11 thru 11/15...can sign up through website...but Amy indicated she would circulate direct invite to committee members Things have worked out well with partnership with Valley...they will use a little less than projected build...Montpelier a little more...approx.. 250 total for both

## **Other business**

How do we set Committee priorities going forward...do we have a retreat or discuss at regular meeting

Dan reiterated what's next comment

Kate thought maybe we should survey members for thoughts...need to take a fresh look at 2030 action plan

Kate didn't know how schools reacted to action plan

Dan...are we recognizing that disruption and adaptation are our new reality....MEAC's role?

Donna...is this a Public Works issue...can MEAC help PW?

All agreed that next meeting should be in person to the extent possible.

Geoff and Karl agreed to put together some questions/issues for members to be thinking about prior to meeting

Tim raised an issue re home upgrades...difficulties navigating with contractors...does MEAC have a role

Geoff noted Covid complicates all contractor issues....not just a supply chain issue but that is certainly part of the problem

Kate noted that we have a website tool that has gone largely unused...MEAC has also historically sponsored the button up program every year

Karl wondered whether MEAC could broker a Buyer's Club....leverage with numbers?...make it easier and more cost effective for contractors

Dan moved to adjourn meeting...Karl 2<sup>nd</sup>...all voted in favor