

Montpelier Energy Advisory Committee  
City Hall – Memorial Room – Montpelier, VT  
Meeting Minutes  
6/22/16

Attendees: Kate Stephenson, Geoff Fitzgerald, Cara Robeck, Dan Jones, Ken Jones, Becky Wigg, Barbara Conrey, Dan Costin, Barry McPhee, Anne Watson, Johanna Miller, Laura Biren (AmeriCorps VISTA)

- 1) Introductions
- 2) Cara moves to approve agenda. Dan seconded. All in favor. Becky moved to approve prior meeting minutes. Barbara seconded. All in favor.
- 3) No public comment
- 4) **Revolving Loan Fund Proposal:**

Ken, Geoff and Kate met to discuss Revolving Loan Fund. This proposed fund would force the City to get projects off of the ground – it's been successful across the country. Would take 50% of \$37,000 coming in from solar = roughly \$18,000 for first year seed money. MEAC will present to the City Council on proposal in July. Template for Revolving Loan Fund from Hillsborough.

Under fund uses: make more specific such as put "you can use funds for...Net Zero" – so that MEAC will have some limitations for applicants

Discussed City's role under "Budget Impact" and who project managers are. Will update Jessie Baker, Bill Fraser, Sandy Gallup – discussed Sandy Gallup's retirement. Discussion on number of projects per year: estimate 3 or 4 per year.

More work will come out of this for MEAC and MEAC's sub working groups. Discussion of concern over using Revolving Loan Fund solely for municipal projects – this is expediting small projects and will have potential for leveraging dollars to public, but would be a can of worms if open to everyone.

Would be useful to have a model application.

Geoff moves to put forward to City Council in July with revisions if necessary. Cara seconded. All in favor.

Discussion of how \$20,000 projects will need approval from City Council – could be linked to overall budget – this was dismissed since loan fund would always be available vs. budget only happens every so often.

Dovetail loan fund into current project management.
- 5) **Working Group Reports:**
  - A. Transportation:**

Drive Less Have More Fun Event: July 16. Discussion of invites/collaborations. Flyers available. Facebook event.
  - B. Solar:**

Ken made guide for Montpelier residents. Clean Energy State clients are doing similar work. Discussion of solar tour or stick to weatherization in October.
  - C. Municipal:**

Meeting on Thursday with firms coming to tour Wastewater facility and VEIC at 11 AM at City Hall.
  - D. Outreach:**

Display materials were be stored at City Hall in Planning Department.

Cara's table/tent will be available for use.

Eat More Kale Fest opportunity and volunteer roles discussed.

Home tour – will connect with solar tour. Geoff will volunteer for solar house.

Update on upcoming Condo workshops on Monday, June 27 at VSECU.

TD Bank Display needs help – Ken is working on dashboard

6) **Barbara update on Planning Commission zoning changes:**

Clarified Design Review District and not enlarging the Design Review Board district, just shifting it.

Planning Commission put set of guidelines for historic review: would allow vinyl replacements & can have deep energy retrofit from inside, not outside.

Month delay due to Council waiting for Chapter 3 from Planning Commission.

7) **Economic Development Strategic Plan discussion:**

No indication of energy or Net Zero in the Plan.

City Council adopted the plan two Council meetings ago (Wednesday, June 8 2016).

Update on Taylor Street:

- 1 more eminent domain (bank by railroad tracks behind Shaws owned by Jeff Jacobs)

- Easements: slow, but steady

Local Development Corporation is major action step from plan – everything else is guidelines.

Discussion of economic opportunity with clean energy economy.

Ken will come up with specific action steps related to Net Zero and economic development.

8) **Review of 2016 Strategic Planning Goals**

It's been 1 year since the last strategic planning session – check in on strategic planning during July meeting.

There was a question whether weatherization will remain in the plan and discussion about the annual transition of Chairs being strategic and using the strategic plan as a transition piece between Chairs.

Mention of Energy Independent Vermont in July 3 parade.

Geoff moved to adjourn at 8:35 PM. All in favor.

**Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 19 at 7 PM.**