



**Montpelier Energy Advisory Committee**

**Minutes 1/15/19**

City Hall, Montpelier VT

Present: Kate Stephenson, Anne Watson, Donald DeVoil, Geoff Fitzgerald, Paul Markowitz, , Karl Johnson, Dan Jones, Amy Gamble, Dan Costin, Ken Jones, Jerod Duval, Bill Chidsey (guest), Phoebe Howe (Efficiency Vermont).

Meeting called to order 7:03.

1. Introductions - No introductions
2. Approve agenda and minutes December. Ken Jones moves to approve December minutes. Dan Jones 2nd. All approved.
3. Opportunity for public comment. No comments.
4. Phoebe Howe (Efficiency Vermont) - Working with landlords.

Private multi-family property owners. Phoebe will be doing outreach (letter) to owners in the next few weeks. Free LED bulbs, water saving devices, cash incentives for larger renovations. There are 350 individual property owners, 450 parcels, 1300 units. Investments can be hard from a business perspective. Personal outreach through connections. Grand list has addresses not phone numbers. The committee can help by adding phone numbers and comments on google sheets document. Perhaps there would be a joint press release as well to kick off and NetZero Montpelier on the letter. Tracking will be based on grand list. Possible Capstone weatherization for tenants that have high energy bills. 3E thermal offers technical assistance for buildings that offer affordable rents (2 Bed Rooms <\$1400). Must be 5 units or more. Better retention is a key benefit to the owners. Also all tanks to be inspected by 2020. Possible ideal time to do fuel switch. Concierge service help with research on options such as refrigerators, financing, etc. Phoebe will be doing an energy walk-thru for each participant. Ken moved to go forward with this project. Dan Jones 2nd. All approved. Geoff suggested doing it separate from the city. Dan Jones suggested an ORCA presentation. Phoebe suggested Front Porch Forum later to support landlord contacts. Newport, Rutland, Bellows Fall, St. Albans, and Northfield are also getting this program.

5. Updates on new strategic initiatives:

Project	Point Person
WRRF- Make biogas project happen. No update.	GMF

<p>Use revolving loan fund for municipal efficiency projects.  Geoff says that the contractor looked at the fire station snow maker control. Controls are ok but not set right. Pipe from city hall to the fire station is not insulated. This will be fixed.  Boiler room had fans louvers and extra heaters not set correctly. Code violation mixing glycol and city water system. Significant savings.  DPW Storm Windows Done.  Lights changed to LEDs in City Hall  Payback calculations can be tricky.  Ken Jones says that the state may allow bond funds to be used for large efficiency projects.</p>	KS
<p>Eliminate fossil fuel use in district heat (summer).  No update.</p>	BC
<p>Explore use of biodiesel and electric vehicles in municipal fleet.  Dan contacted Jim Montford of Keene NH, which has switched to B20. They have been using it successfully for years. Just a few Ford models with issues. Also warranty issues with fire trucks. Also talked to Jim Malloy from Black Bear Biodiesel. He can provide biodiesel with cloud point low enough for reliable fuel use in winter. Dan called Tom McArdle to discuss and will hopefully meet soon.</p>	DPC
<p>Explore fuel switching at schools.  No update.</p>	BE
<p>Reduce idling of vehicles.  No update.</p>	BEM
<p>Hire a paid energy coordinator.  come up with a plan for reaching net-zero in 10 years.  Facilities Manager. 0.75 FTE now. Full time in October. Not an energy coordinator. Will have many duties, such as coordinating district heat, One Taylor Street, Parking Garage.  Planning consultant may also be hired. Issues with hiring consultant. Burlington hired a consultant to help write a NetZero plan.</p>	KS
<p>Find more money (grants etc).  No update.</p>	KJ
<p>Finalize and get approval of city Energy Plan.  No update.</p>	BC
<p>Develop a MEAC communications plan; Improve quality of information/on-going communication to public re weatherization.  No update.</p>	DJ
<p>Work with city to examine ways to reduce commuter vehicles downtown.  No update.</p>	DJ
<p>Explore opportunities for expanding district heat.  No update.</p>	KJ
<p>Promote modern wood heat in community.  No update.</p>	KJ

Encourage weatherization via Window Dressers program. Donald, and Amy visited Maine to see one of the Window Dressers workshops in action, and then plan a trip to the frame production facility in Rockland for the new year. The system was set up well. Quality was good even though volunteers doing the work. Glover is doing it this weekend. Maybe we could buy a set of jigs to make cutting easier. Maybe we could find an organization like Capstone to help coordinate with other towns and perhaps make frame kits.	AG
Engage with property owners to improve efficiency of their buildings. No update.	PM
Workshop for using biodiesel for home heating. No update.	JD

6. Other business.

MTIC was talking about bike lanes in confluence park, but we didn't have a full explanation.

Barre Main Street study to be released soon.

Charter change: Anne says we just approved the first reading. Will be voted on in March. Will give the city authority to enact ordinances in energy efficiency in residential and commercial buildings. Home energy labelling may be a good way to start. State legislature will have to vote later in the session.

Next meeting let's talk about stretch code.

7. Adjourn. Geoff moved to adjourn. Dan Jones seconded. Meeting adjourned 8:40.