

Montague Energy Committee

Feb.3, 2015

Town Hall 1st Floor Meeting Room

Present: Pam Hanold, Chris Mason, Rich Adams, Sally Pick, Jeff Singleton

Approve minutes 1/13/15: approved.

Proposed Natural Gas Pipeline/communication w/ state

Discussion re Low Demand Study & Pipeline:

Look at it from bigger picture rather than from perspective of details?

What is function of energy committee?

Committee member perspectives:

- Ensure an objective view.
 - None of scenarios presented by study meet Global Warming Solutions Act.
 - Promote all views out there; not interested in swaying view.
 - Do not want more gas.
 - High stakes report that supports need for pipeline, but committee has taken stand against it.
 - How would we use a response to the study?
 - Could the committee have an impact with other town committees? E.g. Turners Falls water board, fire departments, legislators.
 - Could committee have impact with FERC?
-
- Where would committee have most leverage?
 - Decision is with FERC re TGP pipeline.
 - What would have most impact with FERC?
 - Pam will ask Leigh Youngblood re FERC deadline for comments, guidelines.
 - Re FERC projects cannot have negative environmental impacts.
 - FERC looks at whether financial cost outweighs benefits.
 - Compressor station proposed for Northfield is extremely large: costs of risk?
 - Pressure point now to keep FERC from making first decision in favor of pipeline.
 - Can send comments as town and as residents.
 - Which committees have say with FERC related to pipeline?
 - Ag. Commission, first responders (if fire): police and fire, water depts., conservation commission.
 - Does committee want to get onto agendas for these groups to have a conversation about? Chris will find out when they meet.
 - Encourage residents, town to write to FERC.
 - Select board: ask if they have written a letter; if not, would they be open to energy committee drafting a letter?
 - See if any selectboard members opposed to pipeline; if so, would they ask other committees to write a comment letter to that affect?
 - Have other towns done this? Pam will send a list of what Northfield has done.

- Northfield has; Deerfield, Gill? Sally will ask Deerfield, Gill for info, sample letters.
 - Rich will call fire chief Green and ask re interest in sending letter to FERC.
- The committee is not convinced that TGP pipeline will move MA on path toward meeting GWSA goals.
- Committee is working toward lowering town's energy use through Green Communities program.
- Committee is against pipeline.
- Low Demand Study:
 - Focuses on addressing a few peak hour capacity needs and ignores need for remainder of year.
 - Study assumes a certain degree of energy efficiency; doesn't look at efficiency options.
 - Study has lots of terms that are not clearly defined.
 - Jeff will draft a letter to Synapse to ask them for clarifications about their assumptions and definitions of terms.
- Where is state going with this?
 - Rep. Kulik has filed a bill that would extend authority to the attorney general for dealing with natural gas pipelines.

Town Energy Issues

- **Energy improvements at Sheffield & Hillcrest school buildings:** no update.
 - How can committee help connect Jim Huber with Frank Abbondozio in near future?
- **Energy Efficiency Advisory Council 3 Year Plans for Cities and Towns: Input due Feb. 13.**
 - Council oversees 3-year energy efficiency plans that utilities have to come up with for Mass Save.
 - Has a lot of weight.
 - DOER is asking for feedback from cities and towns.
 - Many municipality-specific (Green Communities)
 - Community-based renewable energy: one category for feedback
 - Community could apply for programs for residents and business to save energy once meets 20% Green Communities energy reduction goal.
- **Shea Theater:** no update
- **PV on Landfill:** no update
- **Senior Center:** church and senior center not possible. Now considering new building to replace Cumberland Farms building.

ACEE Field Guide to Utility-Run Behavior Programs:

Page 13 starts with synopsis

Energy Efficiency outreach: no update

FRTA

FRTA has pushed discussion of new routes off until comprehensive service analysis done.

March or April energy committee meeting: Jeff will do a presentation on proposal.

Next meeting Tuesday, 2/10/15, 6:15pm-8:15pm.