

Mason Energy Committee January 8, 2024

Present: Dick Stockdale, Kathy Chapman, Darrell Scott, and due to illnesses or other reasons were Michele Siegmann, Curt Spacht, Garth Fletcher, and Michelle Scott on zoom. Joe is on vacation and Dave Morrison is catching up from all night plowing.

Meeting began with review of minutes from November. No comments or corrections, so vote was called to accept, Dick moved to approve, and Kathy seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Upcoming:

January 15 is Town Hall Restoration meeting at 5pm and Michelle Scott/Darrell are attending.

Yearly town report of MEC due 1/18 to masontownclerk@gmail.com. Michelle will prepare a first draft, Kathy will finish and submit.

January 18 is Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) listening session. Michelle and Kathy are attending.

January 23 is primary elections for President, so the BOS moved their meeting to 30th and Dick is planning to attend. Garth is backup.

Energy Aggregation These meetings will also have a zoom option!

1. Jan 27th 9am, hearing/info session at the Multipurpose room at school
2. Feb 8th 7pm hearing/info session at the Multipurpose room at school

Kate Batcheler will be handing out our FAQ for Energy Aggregation at the Primary. Lundy and Dorothy have put together a summary.

Michele asks that the MEC attends these meetings for support, and read and understand the FAQ paper. Curt will send it to all members.

Michele suggests we post 3 FAQ at a time on FB. Michelle Scott will post on 3 FB pages that are in Mason.

CPCNH Kwh energy rate costs are lower than Eversource, but a fraction of a cent.

Eversource's fuel supply is mostly from gas, and the gas rates are going down.

Standard Power is not lowering rates due to locked rates for its contract length, so they are not able to change that. Wilton went with Standard Power and is now paying 10.25/Kwh.

The advantage of EA is that companies like CPCNH can adjust their rates more regularly than Eversource can, and can give payment plans the same as for Eversource.

Curt has not found any town whose residents turned down Community Power.

Zoom links are on the town website (masonnh.us) in the Calendar. Since the town website is a little vague about how to find things, the EA committee may add dates of meetings, and a short guide to finding the zoom link.

MEC Town of Mason 2024 resolutions:

What	First steps	Who will take them
Highway barn solar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Check with Dave on existing plans (2) Check with Mick McGuire on previous work (3) Check with Jim Dorr or Tony about successfully getting grants (how it's done) (4) Find towns that have installed solar and figure out how they did it (5) Contact Joe McGuire about joining the MEC team to work on this project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Kathy (2) Kathy (3) Kathy (4) Michelle (5) Curt
Ask BOS about their short- and long-term energy goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Get a time on the BOS agenda after town meeting (2) Create list of questions to prompt doable and important answers and goals (3) Attend BOS meeting, take careful notes (4) Turn the notes into an action plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Kathy (3) Michelle (3) Michele (4) K/M/M
Revisit weatherization of Mann House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Find out what's available these days in terms of help from Eversource and NH Saves (2) Check with Wally about replacing heat @ Mann house with minisplits (3) Set up another review of Mann House needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Kathy (2) Darrell (3) Kathy
Plant trees with kids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Set up (through teacher) day/time that is good for the kids and a right time for planting (2) Get tree(s) (3) Create classroom presentation and learning aids if any (4) Do the classroom presentation and planting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Michelle (2) Wally (3) Michelle (4) Michelle
Facilitate energy kits for MES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Find out through teacher(s) who might be interested in the kits (2) Provide kit info and logistic info to interested teachers (3) Get the kits from the shipping location to the school (4) Get the kits back to the shipping location, making sure all parts are returned and in good shape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Michelle (2) Kathy (3) Kathy/Dave (4) Kathy/Dave
Include energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Check with other towns that have 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Kathy

considerations in Town Hall restoration	renovated historic buildings (2) Provide helpful information to Town Hall Restoration Committee	(2) Whoever attends the THR monthly meeting
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2024 MEC resolutions discussion:

Hwy Barn Solar: Kathy will check with Dave about his plan/costs of the modifications to the fueling shed. (is that what it's called?)

Garth says the highway department needs 400 sq feet of panels for the electrical usage of the Hwy Dept. Mike McGuire did measure this and he should be asked to share this info.

To get a grant to fund the Hwy Barn Solar, Darrell suggests Jim Dorr or Tony Burns have grant writing skills.

Michelle suggests collecting data from towns that have installed solar on their buildings.

Does the State have these statistics?.

Get in contact with Joe McGuire, and he seemed to be interested in MEC per Curt's communication with him.

Michele suggests that we ask BOS what their goals are for energy savings for the Town. This might need to be put off until after the Budget/Town Meeting time is over.

In the past, we had pursued insulation for the Mann House, but because the basement is damp, insulation would be sealing in moisture, the Town was not willing to spend funds fixing it. Find out from NH Saves what money is available. Would the town be able to use mini-splits. Darrell will check with Wally. Michelle suggests that we revisit the building energy savings

Michelle reminds MEC that the school children at Mason Elementary will plant 2 good size trees for energy saving and for beauty.

Kathy investigated the energy kits to use in the school. For \$40, we can get a kit and keep as long as we like. For grades 4-5, there are electricity and environment, hydro works, photovoltaics in action, and wind works kits. For grades K-3, there are conservation kids, non-contact forces, sun fundamentals, and wind fundamentals kits. People to contact are angie@nheep.org and aubrey@nheep.org.

MEC Personal 2024 resolutions:

Who	What
Joe	Weatherize the west side of the house, and re-side it. crack the 20 kwh/d average.
Dave	Get a mini split
Dick	Insulate basement
Garth	Daily use = 7kwh, which no one can top. getting set to install solar panels
Curt	Use electricity during the day to make best use of solar panels
Kathy	Looking into induction stove
Michele	Insulate attic/basement
Darrell	Install mini split in workshop

Michelle	Impact the next generation by teaching conservation, nutrition with low fossil fuel/polluting footprint, importance of trees, etc.
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Other Town Reports on Energy

Atkinson is moving toward on Community Power. At one of their hearings, 30 people attended. Atkinson states that net metered customers are automatically opted out for the time being. Is that true for Mason?

Enfield has is an energy saving project going with the department of public works. NH Saves gave them \$3321.73 (40% of the total they needed) for the insulating the DPW building. Also has been conducting energy visioning sessions and figuring out next energy steps. They attended and reported on the LES conference.

Nothing happening with Dick's town

Michelle says Portsmouth is getting CP, but Rindge is stuck in discussions.

Peterborough has CP, and is adding charging stations for EV.

Nothing new from Wilton. They have CP from Standard.

Kathy said we could change the time of the meeting if people wanted. But everyone was happy with 7 as of now.

Further discussion on how to get the zoom link easily accessible from the Town website.

Dick moved to adjourn, and Kathy 2nd the motion. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:32.