

Mason Energy Commission February 5, 2024

Present: Darrell Scott, Kathy Chapman, Michele Siegmann, Dave Morrison, Joe Harney, and Richard Stockdale, and on zoom due to health concerns, and other issues. Garth Fletcher, Curt Spacht, and Michelle Scott

Meeting opened with minutes from January. There was a motion to accept the minutes from January by Dave Morrison, and seconded by Kathy Chapman.

Energy Aggregation Committee: They were pleased with the turnout for the 1st information meeting in January, and will have the second meeting on February 8 at 7pm in the Mason Elementary School. Several notices were posted on the Mason FB pages, and Kate Batchelor has printed out the FAQ flyers about Community Power, and had some available at the primary voting.

EAC also has plans for CPCNH for Henry Herndon and Andrew Hatch to speak to their committee at one of their meetings, which are open to the public and will also be available on Zoom. Also Emily Mann from Peterborough will be meeting via zoom or in person to provide further information about Standard Power where she works. The dates are: Feb 26th for Emily/Standard Power and March 25 for CPCNH meeting. These are their regular meetings, and all are welcome! Mann House, at 7 pm. Michelle will contact Kristin Kevela the Principal at the school to see about distributing the flyer directly to parents at pickup time. (Done 2/6/24)

The EAC has 2 new members, Alejandro and Martin Garay. Thank you and welcome.

Action Items highlights: Mike McGuire was contacted by MEC for help with getting solar for the planned new Highway Shed. Plans need to be sketched out so that we can get an idea of the cost and materials needed. Dave suggests it needs to be big enough for the grader to be parked, as well as space for a battery room, and a small diesel tank. It may need to be about 800 sq ft. (about 40 ft X 20 ft). Dave also mentioned moving the shed closer to the Highway Building without disturbing Bruce Mann's right of way to his land on the other side of the Barn.

A discussion of the life of solar panels: it seems that they degrade about 0.5% for a total of 15-20% by 25 to 30 years.

Board of Selectperson's meeting: MEC is on the agenda for March 26th. Michelle and others will put together some questions to see what they see as energy savings for the Town's future.

One question is making the Mann House more energy efficient, and we will bring up and read the December 2018 Energy Audit funded by Eversource that we got at that time (this can be found at masonhenergy.org/energy-use). It is very detailed and now the need is even greater. The furnace in the basement was viewed at the end of the meeting, and it appears quite old, and also there are some leaks. The leaks will be reported to the Town Maintenance person. (MEC should research heat pumps for this building?) By next month should we estimate the cost of heat pump installation vs new furnace for the Mann House?

Action and Education: Michelle followed up on the presentation on trees and their impact on cooling and CO₂ absorption last November, the 2nd grade class will plant 2 maple trees on the town green on April 15 at 2pm with Wally Brown's help. In addition the 2nd grade teacher and maybe at least one other teacher are interested in the NHEEP science kits for elementary schools. MEC will need to vote to spend some funds on these. Website is <https://veep.org/kits-curricula#energyeducation>

Town Hall Restoration: Michelle or Darrell will attend the next meeting to help encourage them to continue to look at ways to make the building tight, and energy saving. February 20th at 5 pm.

Annual Trash Pickup with Conservation Commission: Dave will check on the dumpster to make it sure it is still free! Curt will contact the CC about whether they need help this year with trash pickup.

Reminder for Town Meeting: Saturday March 16, and voting on the EAC warrant article will occur at Town Meeting (not at the election)

Dave moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:32, and Dick seconded the motion, all approved.