

Mason Energy Commission February 6, 2023

Attending: Curt Spacht, Dick Stockdale, Michele Siegmann, Joseph Harney, Garth Fletcher, Dave Morrison, Kathy Chapman

Approve the January Minutes: The January minutes require amendments to correct typographical errors to the monitoring section, Dave moved to approve the minutes as amended, and Dick seconded the motion, the members voted in the affirmative.

2023 goals discussion: We began the discussion of our focus for 2023 with reports from an assortment of NH towns and what their energy commissions are doing. We gathered this information from visiting the towns' energy commission web pages and reading their recent minutes. The towns we've individually agreed to study are Concord, Bow, Temple, Peterborough, Wilton, Wolfeboro, Enfield, Atkinson, Brentwood, New Boston, Milford, Hillsborough, Rindge, and Portsmouth. What the MEC is particularly interested in is how towns define "going all renewables" by a certain date. What projects towns decide to work on and how they pay for the inevitable cost are two critical pieces of information we need to learn from the towns. During this discussion, possible options for 2023 goals are (1) getting the BOS on our side for going electric, or adopting community power (but letting other towns go first on community power seems like a better option for Mason), (2) help Tony get solar and weatherize the FD building, (3) look into what money might be available from the Inflation Reduction Act, (4) work with Dave to support his efforts to reorient the underground tank building roof and add a battery room to make the space solar friendly, preparing for eventual solar, (5) help with or lead a community service such as trash pickup, and (6) have a social event.

Monitoring project update: We discussed the great data that are being collected in the HD and FD buildings, and decided to move forward with another monitor for each building because there is a large number of circuits in both buildings that are not specifically being monitored. We discussed whether we should get the town to pay the electrician for installing the monitors, or whether we should take the money out of the MEC budget, and the impact that might have on what else we might do with the money. Before making any decisions about where to get the money, the first step is to get an estimate from the electrician, which Dave agreed to do. We left until the next meeting the decision on whether to seek funding from the Town.

REAP update: None of the people we contacted -- Pickity Place, Parkers, Joyberry farm, or A1- - has gotten back to us about whether they will seek REAP grants. Dave will speak with Barrett Hill Farm, and will talk to Pete Lundsted about upgrading his welder.

Strategy group: Another discussion was held about the strategy group. There is no agreement that such a group is needed. Some people outside of the MEC have agreed to participate in some role in the MEC. How they should be used has not been decided, and there doesn't appear to be enthusiasm for the effort. Kathy will write up what would be expected from a strategy group and will forward to the MEC for review.

Dave made a motion to adjourn, and Dick seconded it. All voted in the affirmative. Next meeting is March 6, 2023.