

Mason Energy Commission March 4, 2024

Present at the meeting: Kathy Chapman, Richard Stockdale, Joe Harney, Darrell Scott, David Morrison, Michele Siegmann, and on zoom: Curt Spacht, Garth Fletcher, and Michelle Scott.

Meeting began with approval of the minutes from February by the members.

It was decided that we would take advantage of both the voting on March 12th at the School, and the Town Meeting on March 16th, by having MEC information at a small table, as well as the Community Power info and trash pickup info.

Darrell is planning to attend the Old House and Barn Expo at St Anselm College on the afternoon of the 16th to help ferret out the problems and solutions of the Mann House, and Town Hall. The solar companies will also be there. He will miss part of the day due to town meeting, but it lasts until 5pm. Clean Energy gives discounts for Peterborough Renewable Energy day, but this also happens on 3/16 at 10 am.

Report from Energy Aggregation Committee (EAC): There was a presentation by Emily Manns from Peterborough Renewable Energy Committee at the EAC at the end of February. Emily works for Standard Power which is the broker that several nearby towns have chosen. They typically offer 3 tiers for customers to choose from, to get more of their energy from renewables vs Eversource's one tier with only 23% renewables. So our choice is between Standard Power and CPCNH. Curt says we can offer a survey to see which broker would be preferred. He has prepared some questions. (Note: there are some free short surveys on the internet)

Board of Selectmen Meeting: We are on the agenda this month to speak to the BOS about their vision for energy usage in the town's future. There was a discussion about the questions to ask, and suggestions for what to say in case they haven't a clear vision as the MEC has spent lots of time dreaming up best and possible changes to be made at minimal costs. At a minimum we will get an estimate of replacing the Highway Shed and mandatory removal of the underground oil tank, and present Dave's (and MEC) ideas of somewhat larger shed with solar, and the ability to use it as cover for vehicles, as well as a source of EV power capacity for the future.

Trash Pickup: Nate Archambeault will provide a dumpster for the blue bags. Conservation Committee endorses this plan, and we will begin April 1 and continue through the month. Michelle will try to get the schools to distribute bags at least to parents at pickup time, but maybe have more info from the classroom teachers as well. We will have blue bags at the election and town meeting. We will have an end of pickup pot luck on April 27 around 1PM after a morning of picking trash.

Report on Town Hall meeting: Darrell attended the Town Hall meeting. They are still working on the foundation, and plan to replace windows. No energy related information on agenda, or at the meeting, except they discussed storm windows and whether to use inside vs outside storm windows. Continuing with phase 2 of their plans.

Reports on other Towns' progress toward renewables and Community Power: Temple is moving toward community power, slowly. Rindge has some energy related changes to buildings, but has not pursued community power.

Rural Energy Assistance Program by USDA: Kathy received information regarding this program for small businesses and found they now have a dedicated person to help businesses with the paper work. She arranged a zoom meeting for Clean Energy's Gabriel Chelius, for Michelle—working with Parker's Maple Barn, and herself—working with Pickity Place for March. We will pass this information along to the respective businesses.

Very local goals: Each member of MEC is (lightly) charged with personal goals of reduction in energy use, and each person reported. We go from solar installations, to unplugging device chargers, adding insulation, and getting off propane use.

Michelle moved to adjourn, and Dave Morrison seconded, all voted to adjourn at 8:35pm.