

Mason Energy Commission April 1, 2024

Present for meeting: Kathy Chapman, Michele Siegmann, Joe Harney, Garth Fletcher, Richard Stockdale, Dave Morrison, Darrell Scott, and on zoom for personal reasons: Garth Fletcher, Curt Spacht, Michelle Scott.

Minutes approved? Motion by Michele and seconded by Dave and approved unanimously.

**EAC report: HATS OFF TO EAC COMMITTEE FOR GETTING CP APPROVED AT TOWN MEETING!!**

Andrew Hatch from CPCNH spoke at March EAC meeting. Some info from his talk was provided to the MEC by Curt and Michele. CPCNH plans to implement a category that includes long-term contracts for town buildings. CHCNH has changed a lot over the 2 years that we've been talking to them. When we first started talking to them, they said they would change their rates frequently, would let towns know when, but now they only change when Eversource changes, once every six months they offer rate change, guaranteeing a lower rate than Eversource, and a lower rate than all of the utilities.

The EAC is deciding which of CPCNH and Standard Power to choose according to certain acceptance criteria. Curt requests that the MEC should send him email with specific selection criteria concerns. The EAC suggest that #1 priority is cost, #2 has to be less than Eversource, #3 has to be flexible, people we work with have to be flexible.

Michele reports that Andrew was very transparent and helpful especially in explaining non-profits and their rules about fiscal responsibility. Andrew helped EAC understand the different levels of reserves. Reserve funds are made for Mason, for CPCNH, and another reserve fund. A handout explains the reserve funds. The 3rd fund was one that the town could add some money use it as its own reserve fund. The biggest chunk of excess money goes to CPCNH, they are hoping to get a lower rate, they go into a higher tier of auctioneers buying electricity. CPCNH is keeping in mind how much the town gives to reserve. If we decide to get out and leave CPCNH, that is a withdrawal issue, you can't just take your money and run, there is a little tied up in the contract with the reserve fund. Everybody in Mason can opt out, even the town. EACC signs a 3 year contract with CPCNH. We can get a copy of the contract, a joint powers agreement, from the CPCNH website. Same for every town.

**Meeting with Board of Selectmen** Richard Stockdale and Michele Siegmann met with the BOS to determine their priorities in terms of energy savings. The BOS does not have a clear plan for energy savings, but does want information about what to do, and what 1<sup>st</sup> steps to take. It seems that MEC needs to suggest a long range plan.

It was discussed tonight that getting the water problem solved around the basement of Mann House could then lead to insulating, replacing the rusty oil furnace with mini splits which have to have a building which is well insulated to be really cost effective. Upstairs needs new windows as well as insulation.

This year the Highway Barn shed which has the buried oil tank is due to be removed before fines from the State begin. Dave needs to have facts and figures about what he wants—a larger shed which will house a vehicle, and have solar panels to help reduce costs of the Highway Barn. How much this will cost is not certain at this time, but can be estimated.

Mini splits cost for a building can be done by a representative of Bergeron, Inc in Keene. Darrell spoke with them about his workshop last week, and using the information from the Mann House energy assessment back in 2019, and this company, and we can find out costs, and cost savings over an oil furnace. Mini splits last longer than the average furnace.

Michele reports that the BOS would like a detailed plan for a municipal solar array, including feasibility, cost, size, and energy production. They want to know if there is net metering for municipal solar.

Darrell will get on the BOS agenda in mid-May to discuss the issues with the basement in the Mann House.

Once we know some of the plans, and the costs, we can begin looking for some of the grants and rebates available.

Dave mentioned that the instant water heater in the Barn works very well. Though it gets very little use, it most likely saves the town the cost of a regular water heater.

Mann House

Highway Barn

Solve water issue, which is damaging the building, but also prevents adding insulation		Get the oil tank dug out by June 2025		
Insulate Mann House, to allow purchase of more efficient heat and cooling of mini splits		Quonset hut is rusted and fragile—tear down?		
Replace windows upstairs		Shed could be enlarged to hold equipment		
		Solar panels on shed could provide cheap electricity if done using rebates		

**Talking Trash pick up:** No road is ever “finished.” People have signed up for most roads, and the dumpster is in place at the Highway Barn area. Curt has been coordinating this. We will invite Nate Archambeau to our Trash Potluck at the end of April. The Trashy potluck is tentatively scheduled for Sunday April 28 at Chapman/Spachts.

**Old building seminar:** Darrell attended the Old Building Preservation gathering to learn more about how the windows in Mann House, and the Town Hall might best be addressed. He has some information.

Dave suggests “Rewire America” for personal electric plans, and rebates.

Richard has chosen Hollis and Brookline for his towns to follow for energy innovations. Hollis has a 100Kw solar on their sports complex. But they are slow signing up for Community Power.

8:30 Dick moved to end our meeting, Dave seconded it, and all approved. The meeting ended at 8:32 pm