

Mason Energy Commission

April 4, 2022

Present at the meeting: Dick Stockdale, Kathy Chapman, Curt Spacht, Darrell Scott, Michele Siegmann, Dave Morrison, Garth Fletcher.

Minutes from last meeting: Dick made motion to approve, Kathy seconded the motion. Minutes approved by voice vote.

Discussion on security training for committee? Solution?

Trash pick updates: Dick, Curt, and Dave reported. Dick has already picked up 72 grocery bags. Kathy and Curt have 6 full bags of Molson bottles. Curt has picked up 3 blue bags of trash on his walks! Bottles could be recycled but people need to wash them before taking them to the recycling center themselves. The map could be in the library, and maybe at the school. Kim Hemmer is keeping the MEC face book page up to date. Curt and Kathy will be at the church at 9 am on April 23rd. More blue bags have been ordered, and Garth will pick them up. We will have some info on Cost Savings/fuel reduction/energy audits/solar “barn raising” at the April 23rd event.

Trash Thank you. Curt can send out an email to those who have emailed him with taking up roads for trash. He will include Conservation Commission and individuals in the Thank You. The email is also a chance to promote HAREI and the energy audits as a way to save energy.

EV vehicles for police and fire department. On website: list of police dept that have hybrids. Long discussion: EV can idle for 3 hours or so, Hybrid trucks may not have the suspension on Mason roads, EVs would have to have a charging station? We will ask some police dept to see what their experience is. Who will ask? Kathy?

Weatherization and Town Solar Town Hall is focused on foundation right now. It is a National Register building, so windows are not likely to be changed since looks are important. But their basement will need weatherization. At our meeting with the Town Hall Committee, an MEC member could gently ask if they have considered weatherization. Collect information on how weatherization and the use of energy audits helps reduce fossil fuels, and feed these to Curt to put these on the website, then we will ‘dribble’ it out onto FB, and Instagram.

The solar panel for the town communications site was researched by Dave who will send out the info to all MEC members. It costs \$3/watt for a small. \$1,000 to \$3000 per kw. Is it feasible to put in an EV charger there to run off the solar? Dave will get his info to all of us.

Toadstool Idea! The book, Electrify by Saul Griffith. Michelle will contact Library for copies. MEC members would formulate questions as they read. When we receive the books, some of us will chose chapters to read so as not to have to read cover to cover. So the plan is to read the book, formulate questions, and contact an appropriate interviewer like Sy Montgomery, or Laura Konoy. Michelle is still pursuing Bill McKibben and his book Falter as a book to be chosen by a New England author on climate change, and the urgency to make changes.

Dick plugs his Tesla into a 240 plug, but it can use 110 though it takes a long time. EV public chargers are about \$100,000 or so. Still our topic of discussion, on learning more about EVs, and hybrids for cost savings for Mason.

The MEC discussed getting more energy monitors and having them installed in Police Department and the Fire Department. It was agreed that MEC would offer to pay for them if the Select Board does not pony up.

Michele Siegmann moved to adjourn and Dave Morrison seconded it. It was 8:53.