

Mason Energy Commission Minutes May 4, 2020

Present at this meeting, held in Zoom at 7 pm, and opened by Louise Lavoie, of Board of Selectmen, Kathy Chapman, Michelle Scott, Darrell Scott, Curt Spacht, Joseph Harney, Dick Stockdale, Michele Siegmann, Dave Morrison, Liz Fletcher, Doug Whitbeck, and Garth Fletcher. Building inspector came briefly on the call but had connectivity issues.

Agenda

Motion by Dave Morrison to approve the \$250 for the Clean Energy membership, seconded by Michele Siegmann. Roll call vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Fill out the request for a check form from K. Wile. Kathy W. will sign the request for check to authorize payment, and we have the invoice plus authorization to pay, and a copy of the minutes.

Motion to approve the March minutes by Dave Morrison, and Liz seconded. Roll call vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Note that there was no April meeting because of the COVID virus stay-at-home order and no remote meeting capability at that time.

Solar Tour Plans: Darrell did a youtube video on Curt's solar panels for about 5 minutes . He shared this with the committee on Solar Tour, and incorporated some of the comments.

His plan is to put the videos on the Town website when he has created more videos of other installations.

Joe says that voice over the slides has a tutorial feel, i.e. more alive than slides, and you can repeat audio if you want to hear that part. This can also be done with Powerpoint presentations using the comment section at the bottom, so that questions and comments could be shared.

The HAREI information could also be shared in an embedded link. There was a discussion about how to let people know about the Solar Tour and HAREI information because the usual Facebook and website routes. Michelle suggested a small paper kind of card directing people to the website.

Most people think we need the audio to go with the slides. So Darrell will work with each homeowner to describe the pictures, also on how it works, and then he can include this.

Kathy suggests that we make a template of questions that homeowners can answer. This may be good to have a 'skeleton' of questions, and get more details as they send in the pictures. Both MEC and the homeowner can then add the pictures and information.

Darrell will contact Barbara Devore about her array. He will give his camera to Dave M to take the pictures.

Liz asks how to slow down the youtube to view the graph data, and also she wanted to know what the power usage is at different times of the day and year.

Next Item: Scott from PB saw our priorities, and said it is not viable for the town. Joe and Mike McGuire feel that it is, though at this time it might be as cost effective as possible.

Joe figured out how many solar panels you would need for the town, since we did an estimated per home . Mike est ¼ acre. But Joe estimates more like 10 acres (his use is 20 KW/mo) 20,000 panels (slight over estimated) 7.5 million, and 1.5 in energy cost from people paying, and the return would happen in 5 yr. Garth says 600 homes, so a lot less than the 1000 he used as a estimate. Curt suggests that 30 panels/house. On Marion Hill Rd, has about 50 panels. 1/10th of an acre per home would be the land requirement. Curt measured the 24 panels 13 x ? 7.5MW system would be what Joe thinks it would be. There is a website that has examples of semi-industrial panels for significant panel solar panels. Joe will find this website for MEC. Solar farm in Townsend was mentioned by Dave Morrison. Off of 119 near Townsend. Milford Granite Apollo, Perry Rd Solar Farm is an industrial solar farm Maybe we can ask questions about how this works. And electricity capacity might include electric car chargers for Town and members. Biodiesel can be made relatively easily to power some town vehicles. Wind power can be tested to find out if Mason has a location for windmills. We need to add this to our vision. Dave had some ideas for some Town land spots, and private homes may have some locations as

well. Kathy: Where should we go from here? Joe will contact Mike to find out how the Town can work on this idea. Point out how we might be losing out if we don't do it!

Next on agenda: Carbon CashBack Warrant article. Joe is interested in doing some research, and Doug has contact with them, and will forward

Harei presentation was good, but what else can we do to get people active on it. Kathy says what should we do about getting people involved. This year is 26 percent Federal rebate, and as long as you spend the money this year. What is happened to Harei during Covid? They are still having meetings every 2 months, Zooming in of course. The solar raising is suspended for now due to Covid, but are letting one on one meetings. Garth suggests we get HAREI on our website, and Joe suggests we get a testimony of recent solar installations.

Garth suggests that they may have some testimonies to add. They have on line tutorials, and more info on their website, so maybe we should make sure we highlight the testimonials.

Darrell had asked that members give estimates of their total energy use, so we could use these for our future recommendations and reports to the town.

Dave: Kathy thanks Dave for taking kit to Londonderry . NH Energy Education adm gave Kathy some energy activities to use in classrooms. Dave will check with Mrs. Hooper who had offered to do the energy. NH Aviation Museum has a virtual tour around the world. He will send link. Kathy will send Dave the link. (please send it to all MEC). Kathy says: Any ideas about teaching energy conservation to children of Mason?

Carl Edin was on the BOS agenda for May 12, proposal for town for lighting. We will try to get him to follow up. We are trying to get a spot on the agenda for him. Kathy has been pursuing this, but it has been hard to make this happen. MEC needs to have the proposal, and has Eversource buy in, then we will see if the proposal will fly with the BOS. Kathy will call him tomorrow, and try to find out who he is talking to at Eversource, and she will call Eversource directly.

MPlan: Excellent summary by Liz. Kathy is wondering how we can make these a part of our MEC meetings. We could do some small steps, and Michele described some examples of small steps to take. Michelle Scott wonders why we need both priorities and objectives which seem much the same. Better to stick to the priorities, and describe these in small steps taken??

Kathy says: any thoughts about Michael Moore's Planet of the Humans. We need to watch this to see what the arguments will be when we bring this up at a Town meeting. Liz feels the biomass info may be correct, but the solar is full of misinformation due to being outdated. The childish manner of the documentary makes it a poor case. Garth says, the current delusion is that we can continue as we are, and the population growth is a huge issue. Our country has doubled in 70 years, lower energy use is very necessary. Joe points out that population growth is slowing all over the world. US uses 250 KW as much as European nations 125KW, Hong Kong uses 80 kw /d. "Crash Course" will be explained by Joe. Further info needed from Jake. Michelle would like to add if homebuyers could avoid cutting so many trees off the property, and if they are cut down, how to get trees for best shade and energy savings, as well as fruit trees, and decorative trees. Avoiding grass due to waste of energy in mowing, and using only small amount of grass as necessary to particular homeowner.

Liz will contact Jake. He is having problems with email so she will cc Kathy Wile who will alert Jake to the message.

Energy Portfolio: Darrell and Kathy did attend the webinar on the Energy Portfolio, which they felt was helpful in some ways. Darrell is still entering data for 2019.

Next meeting: virtual or town hall with masks? Outdoors? Virtual is ok with majority of members.

Liz moves to adjourn, and Dave Morrison seconds it. Roll call authorizes end of meeting unanimously.

