## Mason Energy Commission Sept 13, 2021

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

Michele made a motion to approve the minutes from August, Dick seconded the minutes approval. Members unanimously voted to approve.

## **Old Home Day Review:**

- 1. Dave stayed the whole time of the 5 hour OHD. Lee Siegmann did a very good job of demonstrating his electric bike. Dave hooked the solar panel which had a siren, and his noise making was a hit. Need a poster explaining Dave's demo.
- 2. The Tesla got blocked by the large MEC banner, but when it did get visible it did attracted attention.
- 3. Curt pointed out that the banner was too large as it blocked part of our displays.
- 4. A large monitor and a few chairs might help people to see and take time to watch the solar tours.
- 5. Perhaps we need a sticker with the website, both Town and <a href="https://www.masonnhenergy.org">www.masonnhenergy.org</a>.
- 6. Melanie Levesque asked lots of questions about the solar info and HAREI.
- 7. We need clean rocks for holding down the papers on the table.
- 8. Need to recruit marketing people for MEC.

Night lights with our firefly logo on it might be fun to attract people. Raffle prizes were not all given away, so we will keep them for next time. If the prizes are age connected (for children) we need to know if their household has children.

**Highway Barn**: MEC is monitoring the energy in the Highway Barn for the purpose of tracking the demand charges, to try to save the Town money. They are monitoring all the power coming in and going out. The number of circuit breakers (32) outnumbers the monitors (16). But about 60% of the energy use data is being monitoring breaker by breaker. A few spikes have been captured. The fridge there uses more energy than Garth's, so Dave will check on the temperature setting, and see also if the gasket around the door needs replacing. It costs about \$100 per year to run the fridge.

There is also an LED light staying on during cloudy days. It has a photo sensor with a "very gloomy outlook." Uses about 90 watts while running, amounting to over 9kWh/week, about 6% of the total consumption.

**Lighting Info:** from Darrell and Eversource: Still not right, they stopped the double billing, but the credits are not straightened out even though Darrell has spent time on the phone several times clearing this up. He will continue to monitor the bills, and make phone calls.

Darrell plans to update the BOS on the latest developments, and get the heating bills to see how the mini-splits are saving the Town money!

**Website**: posted our new MEC flyer, and also a column "Did you know..." And Curt is keeping this up to date, every month or so. Over 1000 hits since inception, and it gets used to help people find energy interesting info. Curt puts some things to archives if it seems to be getting outdated or the page is too busy. Especially now, technology is moving fast.

Curt says he is still needs more content so people are welcome to send him info.

**Grants:** Joe was missing tonight, but we could still use info on grants.

**Mason solar panels.** Garth has made a collection of the info that indicates the savings from using HAREI to install a solar installation versus using a professional installation company. Mark Arsenault's installation costs minus tax credits or rebates was less than 1/2 of what it would have cost to have a system installed by a professional installation company. His cost came in under \$1/watt versus \$2.50/watt. In the first 9 months of operation (December - August),

Mark's savings have amounted to \$1812 which has paid off 15% of his investment, not counting SRECs earned, which PROVIDED Mark another \$135 to defray his outlay further. During February - August, Eversource has been paying Mark each month (i.e. negative electric bills!). Projecting to a full year of data, Mark could be seeing a return on investment of nearly 20%. Decent!

American Rescue Plan Proposals are due so that they are ready when the money arrives. We have to read thru the ARP to see if anything fits into our goals. Other Towns' Energy Commissions have now surpassed us in activity, so we need to move ahead. We can volunteer to read parts of the ARP to see if any of it can be applied to MEC goals.

**LES Conference October 8<sup>th</sup>:** Michelle will invite Pete McGinnity to the LES conference on Oct 8. Michele will talk to the friend up in Maine who is active on an Energy Commission and she will call and report back in Oct MEC meeting.

**Idea for education committee:** Take the info from NH Saves, and weatherization and make a hook type flyer to hang on their mailbox this fall. This needs to be ready by Oct meeting. Kathy will get the info from a printer, and Michelle will write up what will appear on it. "Door hangers"

Where can we store our poster, and banner. Kathy and Curt have agreed to store this for now.

Michele made a motion to adjourn, and Kathy 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The approval was unanimous. Time was 8:56 pm

## Action items from previous meetings

What	Who	Status
Send CR report on plastics	Curt	Done
to everyone		
Get on BOS agenda to	Darrell	
update them on lighting		
issues and request heating		
bills		
Forward email sent to	Darrell -> Kathy	
Sumitra, resend to Sumitra		
Figure out the stats on	Dave	
hybrids and EVs in		
Mason, start with Deb		
Put dick's flyer on	Kathy	
instagram		
Get speaker from P'boro	Kathy	
for next meeting to discuss		
how they got around		
demand charges		
Find someone in FD	Kathy	
interested in energy use		
Call staples, vistaprint for	Kathy	
costs of door hangers		
Send letter to Town	Michelle	
acknowledging		
DiVincentis' donation of		
electrician's services		
valued at \$395.		
Check and see if we can	Michelle	
find another Mason teen to		

help get our msg on		
Energy out to more people		
Invite Pete McGinnity to	Michelle	
LES conference		
Speak with Maine contact	Michelle	
@ October meeting		
Decide what will be on	Michelle	
door hanger		
Meet with your walk-the-	Vehicles: Michelle and Kathy	
talk buddy to make a plan	Heating system conversion: Curt and Dave	
for attacking* your area	Electricity source augmentation: Dick and	
	Darrell	
	Equipment/appliances replacement: Garth, Joe,	
	Michele	

<sup>\*</sup> ID most common obstacles to adopting fossil fuel free (FFF) technology, identify recommendations for overcoming obstacles, create individual timelines for achieving FFF in your study area, fine-tune list of obstacles/recommendations