

## **Mason Energy Commission Minutes**

### **June 4, 2018**

Present: Members Kathy Chapman, Liz Fletcher, Dave Morrison, Michelle Scott, Michele Siegmann  
Alternates Garth Fletcher, Marina MacIntosh, Mike McGuire, Darrell Scott, Curt Spacht, Doug Whitbeck

Meeting began at 7:10. Kathy Chapman and Michele Siegmann are Co-chairs of the Commission, Kathy focusing on action items.

Henry Herndon, Director of NH Sustainable Energy Association's Local Energy Solutions (LES), was our featured speaker. LES is dedicated to helping municipalities and schools increase their energy efficiency and transition to renewable energy. They work with a network of professionals in the renewable sector, host monthly webinars and a newsletter, and hold an annual conference on energy in NH. <[www.nhenergy.org](http://www.nhenergy.org)> is the website for LES. Henry told about possible financial assistance and resources to assist the Commission in our goal of improving the town's energy efficiency.

Henry recommended contacting Eversource's NHSaves program for municipalities. They have rebates for new equipment (heating and lighting for new Highway maintenance building) and on street light conversion to LEDs. Conversion is no money down, with immediate savings through reduced electric bills. [Katherine.peters@eversource.com](mailto:Katherine.peters@eversource.com) is their energy efficiency person to contact. She will know which Eversource region Mason is in, so we can follow up with the relevant staff who administer the efficiency programs for our area. Liz will contact her.

Henry told us that funding for rebates and conversion comes from a pot of money managed by the utilities through REGGI (Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative) and the System Benefits Charge (0.8 cents/kwh on electric bills).

Regarding advice on efficient heating and lighting systems for the new Highway building, Henry recommended contacting Dana Nute of the Resilient Buildings Group. Henry will send the Commission Dana's contact info. He would need to know building specs. Dave said the building is 60 by 80 feet, 23 feet high at the highest point.

Regarding the Commission's concern about improving energy efficiency of existing town buildings, Henry offered to send a list of energy efficiency contractors. The Commission would need to tell them about buildings' heat sources, preliminary studies (Garth's infrared camera analysis), and ask about rebates and other financial assistance with insulation and weatherization.

Henry had referred the Commission to NH Community Development Finance Authority (NHCDFA) as a source of low-cost loans for efficiency improvements (2.5-3% over 10 years). They require energy audits before applying, an upfront expense. Their minimum loan is \$30,000.

Benchmarking is a useful tool to track buildings' energy use and improvements over time. EPA's Portfolio Manager is a computer program to accomplish this. Henry said that Linda Darveau with EPA in Boston is a resource for training in using Portfolio Manager. He'll send contact info.

Henry mentioned the upcoming meeting of Monadnock Energy Hub, which focuses on public education about community solar. It's on Monday June 18<sup>th</sup> at Nubanusit Neighborhood in Peterborough, starting at 5:30 with a tour of their wood-pellet boiler system and solar PV systems. John Kondos of non-profit Monadnock Sustainability Network is leading the community solar effort. <[www.greenmonadnock.org](http://www.greenmonadnock.org)>

Henry provided info on the NH Energy Education Project (NHEEP) which offers renewable energy science curriculum kits to schools, elementary through high school. [www.veep.org/kits](http://www.veep.org/kits)

Henry has helped the Commission get off to a good start – his detailed knowledge and ability to share it is a great resource for NH communities.

Next, the Commission approved the minutes of the May 7<sup>th</sup> meeting as written.

Garth Fletcher presented MEC's email system organized through the town website. He gave each member present a page describing how to use it.

Mike McGuire presented his research on the possibility for solar PV municipal electricity. A ground-mounted system for Mason town use might only need a quarter acre, to site one hundred 350-watt panels to make a 50 KW array. The town could do net metering, possibly fund the array through the state bonding allowance specifically for solar.

Dave reported on the workshop on Green energy-saving vehicles June 1 at Loudon Speedway that he and Doug attended. There's a clean diesel grant program for acquiring new diesel trucks but the old trucks have to be taken out of service, can't be sold. They were pushing propane as a fuel, it's cleaner than diesel and maintenance is easier. Dave tried out different hybrid electric pickups, 400 mile range, but he wasn't sure if they could handle the hills of Mason.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.