

Mason Energy Commission Minutes November 5, 2018

Present: Members Kathy Chapman, Liz Fletcher, Dave Morrison, Michelle Scott
Alternates Garth Fletcher, Curt Spacht, Doug Whitbeck, Darrell Scott
Michelle Russell of Hancock's Energy Committee attended to hear Scott Maslansky
Meeting began at 7:00. Minutes of 10/1/18 MEC meeting approved as amended.

Follow-ups from October Meeting –

Energy Audits: Margaret Dillon's Mann House audit took place on Thursday October 27th. Her report may not be ready until the end of this month. MEC may need to meet in December to go over her report and prepare a warrant article based on Margaret's recommendations for March 2019 Town Meeting. Under MEC's charter, a December meeting is not scheduled.

Liz reported that Eversource's Ann Karczmarczyk says that Carl Edin of Energy Management Consultants can do the lighting audit for Mann House, Fire Dept, Highway Dept, and Police Station. Liz offered to be the contact person to arrange for scheduling the audits, but has yet to hear back from Ann K. to connect with Carl. Liz will contact Ann again on this.

Portfolio Manager data collection update – Curt reported that the data is now entered in for all buildings. Thank you Curt, for all this data entry. Curt noted that the Highway Dept uses lots of oil, mostly for the Quonset hut which has an under-sized heater. Also the Police Station uses quite a bit of oil.

Diesel Replacement Program update – Dave sent off the application to the state for a new dump truck but hasn't heard anything yet, though the state was supposed to make the decisions in late October. If approved, Mason will get a 25% rebate on the cost of the new truck. These funds are part of the VW settlement.

Scott Maslansky of Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) was the featured speaker, Scott directs CDFA's Clean Energy Fund, which can find grants and provide low-cost loans for municipal and commercial energy projects, focusing on energy efficiency and renewable energy. CDFA also provides technical assistance to applicants through their pre-application system for borrowers and contractors. Before coming to CDFA, Scott did residential and commercial energy audits and project funding so he's familiar with the field.

CDFA is a state-chartered independent authority. It administers federal Community Development Block Grants for planning and emergency projects. If a project realizes money savings (such as energy efficiency can do) it wouldn't qualify for a block grant. CDFA projects range from senior centers, affordable housing, maker spaces, retro-fits and new construction, and recently NH Charitable Foundation received a grant for child care workforce development.

The Clean Energy Fund has \$10.2 million in its revolving loan fund, \$5.3 million is presently deployed. It's done 35 municipal projects since 2015. These projects must demonstrate at least 15% energy savings. To apply, a level II energy audit is required, with cost estimates and energy modelling. Efficiency loans are for terms of up to 10 years; solar loans up to 12 years. Municipal loan rates are 3% at present. Loan amounts range from \$30,000 minimum to \$500,000 maximum. Loans can be finalized in 45 days from receipt of the application: 30 days to do underwriting and 15 days for the loan documents.

In some cases, audit costs can be rolled into the project costs for loan purposes. Scott said that if Margaret's audit can qualify as level II with some additional work, those costs can be bundled into the loan.

Scott showed a spreadsheet of all the Clean Energy Fund's municipal projects. The Town of Warner (population 2,800 in 2010) received a loan for \$273,000 to make a community solar array to cover all town buildings' electric use. Their estimated annual savings is \$27,000. Warner is twice Mason's size and has a Village Water District with 200 customers so it's a larger user of electricity than Mason. They may use heat pumps to heat some buildings. Their solar array has battery storage.

Scott described the VW mitigation settlement funding that's about to come to NH. It will be a \$31 million dollar pool with specified uses: 15% has to go to administration; 15% is for electric vehicle (EV) supply equipment (\$4.6 million for charging stations); 50% is to be used to buy vehicles, specifically clean diesel not electric. 60% of this 50% goes to municipalities to buy school buses, covering 75% cost of each bus. CDFA can finance the other 25% for towns. Scott is disappointed that none of this money is dedicated to acquiring electric vehicles.

Scott is working with Henry Herndon on a data base of funding sources for municipal energy projects. They hope to have it up on the Local Energy Solutions and CDFA's websites in 3 weeks. Scott gave some examples -- USDA has Community Facility grants/loans depending on community income; NHSaves (Eversource) has incentive grants for energy efficiency; NH Public Utilities Commission has incentive grants of 40% for wood boilers. DSIRE is a nation-wide data base of funding for municipal energy projects.

Scott emphasized that a project's cost effectiveness is not only financial but also can be increased comfort, where people work better in a building with more effective heating/cooling/lighting.

MEC is grateful to Scott for coming out to Mason to give an excellent presentation about CDFA's Clean Energy Fund. We had invited representatives from surrounding towns' Energy Commissions, and we are glad that Michelle Russell of Hancock came to learn along with us.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37pm.