

Mason Energy Commission Minutes draft March 4, 2019

Present: Members Kathy Chapman, Liz Fletcher, Dave Morrison, Michele Siegmann, Michelle Scott

Alternates Garth Fletcher, Curt Spacht, Doug Whitbeck, Marina MacIntosh, Mike McGuire
Meeting began at 7:05. Minutes of 2/4/19 MEC meeting approved as amended.

MEC Fund-raising: Michelle Scott has researched about setting up an Energy Commission Fund through the town accountant, Brenda Wiley, and the town Treasurer, Dee Mitchell. Such a fund is authorized under RSA 38-D. Members at the meeting contributed \$100 cash. Michelle will bring this to Brenda and ask that Dee open an Energy Commission Fund. Once it is opened, contributions can be received by check. When the fund has more than \$350 (\$100 minimum) MEC can vote to spend \$250 to become a municipal member of Clean Energy NH, Henry Herndon's group.

Shortcoming of 2018: Members agreed that communications with town government should be improved. Michele Siegmann suggested that members take turns to attend a Select Board meeting once a month to keep in touch with town affairs.

Focus for 2019:

Planning - Make Energy Chapter for the town Master Plan, which is being updated now. MEC should try to integrate energy savings throughout the Master Plan, working with the Planning Board on drafts. Models for planning would be Temple, Rindge, and Hollis Energy Plans. Another planning focus would be to develop a 10-year vision for MEC. Transition to 100% clean energy use would be the ultimate goal. Clean Energy NH would be a resource for advice. Members who are interested in working on planning: Kathy, Michele Siegmann, Doug, Liz.

Outreach and Education: The consensus was that we need to better inform ourselves before doing outreach such as handouts at election/town meeting. It would be good to research possibilities for educational projects in the schools about clean energy, energy efficiency, recycling, composting. Clean Energy NH has info about programs. Marina mentioned a good Laura Kinoy show on NHPR about weatherization – MEC could publicize the link to that. Garth offered the use of his website to host a library of such links and other energy info. Members who are interested in working on education/outreach: Kathy, Curt, Dave, Marina, Michelle Scott.

Other tasks for 2019:

Portfolio Manager: MEC should keep up with this. Curt can enter the data for 2018 town energy use, but it can be difficult to obtain. Dave offered to ask Brenda if she can keep copies of the oil, propane, and electric bills for MEC to track. Marina offered to pick up the portfolio manager info from the Town Hall when Brenda has it collated.

Town Hall project: The Select Board will be investigating grants to implement this \$200,000 rehab project. MEC should keep in touch with the process and offer energy efficiency input. Attending Select Board meetings will be helpful. By the end of the month when the new Board is in place, Liz will draft a letter to them, asking how MEC could assist with any energy issues that may come up during the Town Hall project. The letter should also express MEC's interest in any opportunity for energy savings with town buildings.

Town Vehicle Purchasing: The town's largest use of fuel is for vehicle operation. Members wondered how to have input to vehicle purchases so that energy efficiency is factored in. Dave said that the Selectmen may be setting up a committee to look at vehicle purchases. MEC could ask the Select Board to be included, with a MEC member on this committee.

Publicity: Kathy Gregg attended the meeting to offer her services to publicize MEC's work. She's experienced in book-publishing and writing op-ed pieces and could write facebook notices. Once MEC decides on a project, Kathy could write it up and publicize it. Michelle Scott offered to co-ordinate with Kathy to publicize MEC's annual report on facebook. The annual report is about to come out in the Town Report for Town Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.