

Mason Energy Commission Minutes draft

April 1, 2019

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

Alternates Garth Fletcher, Curt Spacht, Doug Whitbeck, Marina MacIntosh, Darrell Scott

Meeting began at 7:05. Minutes of 3/4/19 MEC meeting approved.

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. But Brenda wasn't sure about setting up such an account since no line item for MEC was in the budget. Michelle will follow up with Brenda to see what procedure can be followed to use the \$250 Michelle has raised for MEC to become a municipal member of Clean Energy NH.

Marina researched funding sources and found that <grassrootsfund.org> gives grants around \$1,000. Their grant programs are as follows: [Seed grants \\$250-\\$1,000, apply anytime](#); [Grow grants \\$1,000-\\$3,500, deadlines March 15th & September 15th](#). Dunbarton got a thermal camera with a grassrootsfund.org grant.

Lighting Study: The Board of Selectmen had indicated they would like to have a lighting study of the town buildings. Eversource's Anne Karczmarczki had asked Carl Edin, the lighting contractor recommended by Margaret Dillon, to contact MEC, but we have heard nothing yet. Liz will contact Carl directly to schedule a lighting study of the 4 town buildings which use enough electricity to qualify for Eversource rebates: Mann House, Police Station, Fire Station, and Highway Dept. This study would not include the 6 town street lights which are on a lease with Eversource. One of the street lights on the common is acting shakey. Dave will ask Wally to call Eversource about this light, and ask for it to be replaced with something more efficient. He'll give Wally Anne K's contact info.

Communications with Select Board: Darrell had attended a meeting on weatherizing historic buildings; it seems that insulating walls can sometimes be problematic. He wrote a report that was sent to MEC members. Michelle will send it to Kathy Wile and Margaret Dillon. She won't put MEC's annual report on facebook until we have a funding mechanism.

Members were OK with the dates set up by Kathy C to take turns attending Select Board meetings once a month to keep in touch with town affairs.

We agreed it was premature to send a letter to Selectmen about MEC becoming involved with a Town Hall committee. There's been no mention of a committee being formed.

Garth has set up a library on his website for links to energy information. No one has sent any links to him yet.

Terms of MEC members Kathy, Doug, and Garth are up as of mid-March. All agreed to re-up. Kathy will contact Kathy Wile about writing up the papers for new terms.

Subcommittees: It was agreed that MEC subcommittees can meet on their own at members houses. Such meetings don't need to have public notice posted because they will be for research purposes, no binding decisions will be made.

Outreach and Education: members Curt, Dave, Marina, Michelle Scott.

Marina has researched the NH Saves “Button Up” program which offers workshops for people interested in improving the energy efficiency of their homes. She attended a “Button Up” workshop in Exeter and recommended that MEC host a workshop for Mason. We all agreed this would be a good outreach event. It would be best to schedule for a Community Supper night, so people can go over to the Town Hall afterwards for the workshop. Tentative dates: Sept 12, Oct 10, Nov 14. Marina will contact the presenters to arrange for the date, she’ll engage Town Hall. MEC will publicize the event in surrounding towns and invite other Energy Commissions. Thank you Marina!

Dave wants to do educational projects in the Mason School. Marina has information on teaching kits about clean energy from Vermont Environmental Education Program, which she gave to Dave. Their website at <VEEP.org> offers curriculum.

Planning: members Kathy, Michele Siegmann, Doug, Liz.

Members have studied energy chapters from various town Master Plans. Henry Herndon provided links to energy plans in Claremont, Dunbarton, Durham, and Rye. We also have Temple and Hollis for local examples. We should co-ordinate with the Planning Board as they update the Mason Master Plan, done in 2007. Michele has arranged for MEC’s planning subcommittee to meet with the Board, tentatively for their April meeting on the 24th, The subcommittee agreed to meet beforehand to prepare for the Planning Board, at Kathy’s on Wed April 17th, at 7pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.