

## **Mason Energy Commission 10-7-2019**

Meeting called to order by Kathy Chapman, minutes by Michelle Scott

Attendees: Kathy Chapman, Curt Spacht, Doug Whitbeck, Marina Macintosh, Michele Siegmann, Liz Fletcher, Garth Fletcher, Dave Morrison, Darrell Scott, and Michelle Scott  
August, 2019 minutes voted to be approved by Liz, seconded by Dave. Note: no minutes from September due to meeting replaced with ButtonUp workshop.

**ButtonUp review.** All went well! Thank you to Marina Macintosh, and the many people who responded to her leadership. Thank you notes were sent to people outside MEC. We still need thank you notes for Barbara Devore, and Connie Lacasse. Michelle will send. Record attendance for a ButtonUp workshop is 52, we had 44 attendees. **Follow up** would be to get Eversource to get the saving information to contractors. (How will we do this? – added to action items list) We could see about expos for contractors and similar expos, farm, construction. (look up information on the kinds of expos/conferences that might be open to this kind of program -- added to action items list) **How about follow up with attendees?** Kathy asks what should we do? What did we learn? Moisture control is most frequently a problem, and until it is resolved, tightening up the building is not effective. We decided to send out an email to people who attended not as a survey but along the idea of --Getting Cold Yet? Remind people who they can call for certified energy audit, the websites, etc. NHSaves pages and how to get help. In the email follow up it might be good to remind people of the mission of the MEC, and even invite their participation/membership. Ted, who gave the workshop suggested how people can find out if they need an energy audit, and qualify for a free one. We will send Deb Morrison some info that she can post on the town website and will also ask that she post it on the events to direct people to the information. We have a considerable stash of pamphlets for the future. We will continue to keep this up front by placing these in library, town office, and school.

**Marina** announced her withdrawal from the committee, due to personal reasons. We will **really** miss her energy, and thank her for the amazing workshop organization.

**Town meeting prep:** Do we need to ask for money for energy saving activities for the town buildings? MEC needs to submit a budget for our expenses. \$250 for membership in the Clean Energy NH statewide organization, and \$250 for expenses for energy education, a banner to promote MEC at town events, outreach, and printing, as well as speaker travel expenses. The Commission decided to request an additional \$250. In our first year, members funded all these efforts, so to encourage members to stay on MEC, it seems fair to have a small budget. (People on the MEC will add up what they have personally spent and this will give us a figure.-- added to action items list)

**Bill SB 286-FN** is an act relative to aggregation of electric customers by municipalities and counties. This was one of the few bills that was not vetoed. Maybe Pat Martin would be able to speak to us on this bill and what it means for our town. (Who will call Pat?-- added to action items list)

**Outreach committee:** Dave Morrison reports that children at Mason School got the bookmarks to color and these were laminated by Marina and Don, and distributed to Community Supper, some went back to the school, and to workshop attendees, with some left over for distribution in the future. Button Up materials were shared with Ms. Hooper at Mason Elementary who is the teacher who has shown the most interest.

**Master Plan committee:** They plan to have the energy chapter of the master plan ready by end of January, 2021 for first draft. The MEC presented 3 points to the planning board: a parking area with charging stations, carpooling app, (these got into the transportation chapter. The Committee will have a meeting to firm up their suggestions from MEC in Nov.

**Lighting:** How about the lighting expenses? Carl's report, and estimates, actually make this a savings, rather than an expense, as the rentals fees paid now are greater than the expense of owning more energy saving lights. Any repairs would come out of town budget for electrical work. Our budget request will be for \$500. Liz has succinctly summarized Carl's responses, since the Selectmen have been continuing to request more information. Liz has sent this info to Selectmen (shall we attach this to minutes). Carl can be on the BOS agenda to explain the process. Nov 12<sup>th</sup> BOS meeting, we will ask Carl to attend? And let Kathy Wile know where he is driving from, so he can be early on the agenda. We all agreed this is the way to go! So now we pay \$1600 per year for rental, while it will cost about \$500/yr for the town to maintain the new lights.

*How many MEC meetings does it take to change a light bulb? D. Morrison*

**Internet access in Mason:** Mike Judge and others are working on this in Mason, and maybe we can use this info for our Master Plan energy chapter. Joe Havens, Bill Schongar, and Lee Lemoine are also members of this. In towns that are underserved for internet, there is an RSA that allows the town to pass a bond to support this effort. This internet group is trying to work with Consolidated, to find out if Mason qualifies for this program and what are the next steps. The internet group is looking for support in the Town. Having faster internet would save energy by reducing commuting time by helping more people to work from home, and for local businesses to use. The internet group wants support from us, so we will invite them to a meeting to present their findings and efforts.

**Nashua Regional Planning:** a solar farm for aggregating energy? (What is our action on this item? – check on what NRPC is doing, added to action items list)

**Portfolio Manager:** Marina has worked diligently on this, but we still are not caught up. With her absence, Darrell will look into a simpler way of keeping PM records up to date. Does Kathy Wile have more information on how we can do this? Bills are public information.

Kathy adjourned the meeting at 8:50 pm. Dave moved to adjourn, and Liz seconded it. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.