

Mason Energy Commission November 4, 2019

Attending: Garth Fletcher, Darrell Scott, Doug Whitbeck, Kathy Chapman, Dave Morrison, Michelle Scott, Curt Spacht, and Michele Siegmann

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dave and seconded by Doug. The motion carried.

Budget request: Kathy Wile says we need to request the \$500 we decided on in October. Kathy Chapman will put our request in writing, about \$250 for our membership in the NH Energy, and about \$250 for education purposes, and meeting expenses.

NH Saves lighting audit was not acted on by the Board of Selectmen. MEC provided the support and research to help the Town save money. They decided to change to LED lighting as the lights fail, rather than take advantage of the immediate savings that could be achieved by acting on this offer from NH Saves. MEC will put Carl's report and the info on savings into their annual report. We will simplify Carl's plan so that the BOS will see the plan, and also check with either Eversource for doing just the street lights. MEC agrees that it is worth doing, and Kathy will attend the meeting.

Revisiting our Purpose: What is our purpose? Continue public education, the lighting will not be dropped but at least the street lighting will be presented again (per these minutes). This discussion needs to continue as we plan our activities for 2020 and beyond.

Aggregating Power—What will we, as a Town, do? The RSA requires that the BOS be informed. How should we start? With aggregating is it better than being able to choose your own utility? This is not clear to us as a committee, and probably even vaguer to the BOS. Our discussion showed we were unclear how this will work. Garth pointed out that if it costs the Town, many people will choose the cheapest, not necessarily the greenest energy. Doug feels we need to do a study to clarify the new RSA.

Michele reported on Master Plan (MP) subcommittee:, which is projected to plan for up to 2030. The MP subcommittee needs to have a vision for the MEC part of the plan. If the rail line comes through, that would be one more reason to carpool from Mason. The MP committee will try to have their recommendations ready by end of January. Their report will try to be concise, with bulleted items. Next meeting for MP is November 20th.

Broadband Information: Mike Judge from the Mason Broadband committee, representing Bill Schongar, Lee Lamoine and Joe Havens, are in a group that allows towns in NH to plan for broadband access as a group. There is a bond for each person who buys into the system. The majority of the town is rated as "underserved" and therefore would qualify if they apply. Fiber optics would be the preferred option.

Challenges: you can only run the fiber to those who are underserved. So they have to find out who has what speed. Will you have to pay the cost from the road? So Consolidated should have some of those figures. The bond will cost all the customers who are part of it. The Town would own the line, but then be stuck with the maintenance. Chesterfield has done this. The broadband committee has FB and website: Fiber2Mason on FB, <https://www.masonbroadband.org/>. The website provides an email address to use if a person in Mason wants to participate in a survey. <https://www.masonbroadband.org/survey-SEP2019> There is also information on FB. The town website reaches about 1/3 of the people. But Mike will think about posting the survey on the town website.

Outreach to School by Dave Morrison. Ms Hooper is the contact at Mason Elementary School. There are some energy kits at \$40/kit. We will add this to our budget request. There are K-3, and 4-10th grade kits that expose children to how energy is produced, how to insulate and save money other ways. The kit manufacturer will even drive from VT to "train

the Trainer". Dave thinks the program requires about ½ hour to 1 ½ hours with the children, and there would be prep-time for the teacher(s).

New business: LES conference on Nov 15 from 8 to 4:30pm in Concord, and is set up for Energy Commissions. Who can attend?

Action item from Darrell: He can get into the Town account for Eversource but this is only 1/3 of the bills for the town, oil and gas are missing. This is needed for the Portfolio Manager. So for this time, we are not doing anything with the MP. According to Darrell and Curt, MEC is not collecting the information at this time. However, if we want this data it is up to us to get it done.

Comments on the follow up letter to the Button Up workshop: Kathy will send out the information via email, for all persons whose emails we collected at the Button Up can respond.

No meeting in Dec.

Doug is on for the 27th of Nov. at Planning Board. It starts at 7.

Jan 6th is next MEC meeting.

Minutes submitted by M. Scott.

Michele moved to adjourn, Kathy seconded . The motion carried.