

July 6, 2020 Mason Energy Commission

Kathy read the right know law, per Gov. Sununu

Roll Call: Kathy Chapman, Darrell Scott, Curt Spacht, Garth Fletcher, Liz Fletcher, Joe Harney, Richard Stockdale, Dave Morrison, Michele Siegmann, Michelle Scott. Louise Lavoie moderated. Guests were Jake Olson, the Town of Mason Building Inspector, and Ally Samuel, Sierra Club and Ready For 100 coordinator.

Guest Jake Olson, building inspector: Jake was invited to the meeting as part of MEC efforts to encourage more energy efficiency in buildings in Mason. Liz had sent Jake a sample list of energy efficient suggestions from town of Durham. Our question is: are there opportunities in the process to make changes to our current guidelines to increase efficiency. Jake says that in the last 5 years there have been some considerable changes in recommendations for R values and efficient windows, and he acknowledged that Mason currently uses the guidelines from IBC (International Building Code).

R values in ceiling have doubled, and in walls up by 40%. Building science may be catching up with MEC hopes of increased efficiency. No one uses fiberglass in ceilings, and 2x6 is now the standard, (not 2x4) for construction. Every level (1st fl to 2nd fl) has the latest caulking and foaming to seal the building. Blown in cellulose is the most common now for ceilings, but foam is used for walls. Foam replacement of fiberglass is very expensive to change, so houses with fiberglass, are not quick to change. Fact: knowledge of the public has not caught up to the facts that foam is so much better for sealing out the elements, but it is expensive and, it is a fossil fuel product. For builders it has to be put in when the temp is above 50 degrees. There is a coating on the foam to slow combustion, and it gives you about 20 minutes so you can get out of the house. Fire fighters do not care for it as it is combustible. Once it starts it, it is dangerous due to rapid burning, and explosion. But newer fire alarms are battery backed up, and hard wired, so there is a better warning system. The cellulose is good for ceilings, but not walls due to settling.

Jake says he could staple the recommendations that MEC makes to the application. Jake reports that lighting is nearly all LED, do to lasting a long time, using less energy, and it does not heat up. Kathy asks about heating /cooling: Can we give info? People are interested in propane now. Oil gets a lot of heat per unit/more polluting and corrodes the vents with sulfur. Right now we have extra methane gas (which in Mason is converted to propane for use), and it's the cheapest, so many people are choosing it for heat.

We can give info regarding energy efficiency Solar panels on roofs are sometimes difficult for fire fighters to negotiate if there's a roof fire. People may want to talk to the fire department about placement of the panels. Due to the number of eye brows raised about foam insulation and the fire issue, MEC may look into this concern. So we will mail Jake our recommendations. He seems open to sharing these recommendations with people requesting building permits. Further additions to the list may be siting the house so that if solar were added in the future it would be angled well, and windows can be placed for maximum passive solar.

Liz and Michelle and ??? will look at the Durham energy efficiency list, to incorporate our best suggestions.

Going 100% Renewable Energy: Ally Samuels, our next guest, works for Sierra Club and is now working from Manhattan due to travel restrictions. Her area is the northeast states. Sierra Club can help us with the ways other big and some small towns have put forth Warrant articles. Ally described what support Sierra can offer towards preparing Mason for ditching fossil fuels. Renewable Energy 100 % warrant article by 2030 passed in Keene. Keene and Concord have council warrant articles that are more detailed. These communities are considerably larger than Mason. In NH there are 5 communities who have made 100% commitment Ally does community organizing, and she is not the expert on the how the changeover can be accomplished. Sierra Club works with NHClean Energy and Henry Herndon, and other

groups. So she can help us with a public hearing, leadership engagement, and other ways to get the whole community to be involved. There's an email chain for Sierra club, and all Sierra asks is that there is at least one member of our group who are Sierra members. (We have 4) Two other small towns, Plainfield and Cornish have committed, but these towns are having a hard time getting people to sign on. The work is mostly done by their energy committee. Ally feels they need to connect with other communities! She suggests connecting with colleges, regional planning committee, and other individuals who are supportive of renewables.

Slack is a new platform, a combination of email, and instagram. And its free. You have an easier time to share and Ally can show us how it works to connect us to others in NH. Some small towns are considering energy aggregation which may help smaller towns meet the goal they set.

Kathy asked if we can connect with community power in a location not near us. So Ally suggests that we put pressure on the State and the utility to make this vision happen! Those are often roadblocks which need knocking down. 4th Wed of month there's a webinar at 2 times 1pm, and 8pm. Pay attention to time zones. Ally will send an orientation webinar, and campaign principles, to see if we agree with their values. Then we get access to resource hub, on how to run this campaign, There is no cost. They like to have at least one Sierra Club member, so we are good.

Liz: much of the info has been geared for bigger communities, but they are looking at how to include small towns as well, so that is a good reason to combine with other towns.

Joe will contact Cornish and Michelle will contact Plainfield to find out what progress they have made and how they are doing. We will see how their commitment is being followed up on with town support.

Temple has an active Energy Commission, so we will check on how they are doing, Liz will do this.

Solar Tour report: Darrell is still trying to Bob Dillberger's geothermal system into our virtual tour. Conservation members will nudge him along. Roof mount system needed. Darrell will send us all an email with his idea for info on the website. Michelle Scott will copy this to the FB pages in Mason. Mike McGuire may be another candidate for a roof mounted system. School wood boiler with oil backup: Dave and Darrell will coordinate to get pictures and description of the system. A pellet system would also make a good addition to our alternative energy tour. Michelle Scott will call Mason Nursery for info on someone who has pellet/wood burning system in Mason.

Sumitra Haynes and Chris Leask on Batchelder have a passive solar house. Let's add passive solar to our building inspection list.

Lighting update. Garth met with the project manager, and he went through room by room, to make sure he had the items that were on the list. Thank you Garth! Color temp of the lights came up as a choice that has to be made before the installation is done. Garth preferred 4000 and the manager made that recommendation also, since most people choose this. 4000 is the most balanced, but 5000 has more blue. Joe says 5000 is called daylight—sort of like the sun. So the numbers refer to temperature not wave length. What happens next with the lighting? They are ordering the parts, and that will take 2-3 weeks, and then about 1 week to install.

Education: Dick says to write up the ideas, and have the kids to do the projects themselves. Get students to do the research on their own, and then present it to their class. MEC could ask the questions or suggest general projects.

Michelle Scott will send Kristen Kivela email to Dick. So he can find out which teachers might be interested. Dick will have some projects for lesson plans. Kathy will contact Diane Varney Parker, and Don MacIntosh for persons who might be interested in using info on alternative energy in the classrooms. Kathy will send Keith Williams an email to see if Ellie has any ideas about energy saving, or even may want to be an MEC member. Also Kate Messer may be interested. Kathy will check

At 8:54 Liz moves we adjourn, Dave 2nd. Michelle , Michele, Dave, Liz, and Kathy all say aye.

Action Items

What	Who	When
Draft of blurb to send to Mason @ virtual tour to MEC	Darrell	DONE!
Contact Mike Mcguire @ roof mount	Darrell	7/13
Edu video @ heating systems	Darrell?	8/3
Educate public @ fiberglass vs foam insulation	Darrell? Part of video project?	8/3
Contact Ms Hooper @ energy liaison/studies	Dave	7/13
Pellet stove @ school	Dave will send pix @ school to Darrell, Dave will ask Chris if Darrell can visit	7/13
Write up lesson plan	Dick	8/3
Joe to call Deb @ getting sworn in	Joe	7/13
Contact Cornish @ RF100	Joe	7/20
Contact Bob Dillberger to encourage him to work with Darrell @ video	Joe, Liz (send Bob contact info to Joe), all of us	7/13
Talk to FD @ solar panels on roof, get their suggestions	Kathy	7/20
Contact Sumitra Haynes @ passive solar	Kathy	7/13
Contact Diane and Don McIntosh and milford high school @ energy liaison/studies	Kathy	7/13
Send keith email @ ella	Kathy	7/13
Ideas @ Virtual solar tour advertising (+HAREI advertising)	Kathy	8/3
Thank you to Doug	Kathy	7/13
End of month sierra club training	Kathy sends invite to MEC	7/29
Contact Temple @ commitment to renewables	Liz	7/13
Handout sheet for bldg inspector	Liz w/ Michelle Scott	8/3
Figure out how to get a timer installed in the police station to cut down on usage	Michele	8/3
Contact Plainfield @ RF100	Michelle	7/20
Call Mason Brook nursery @ if they know someone who has a boiler system	Michelle	7/13
Contact Kristen Kivala @ energy liaison/studies	Michelle	done
Work with cons comm @ planting trees	Michelle	8/3