

Mason Energy Commission Minutes September 4, 2018 as amended 10/1/18

Present: Members Kathy Chapman, Liz Fletcher, Dave Morrison, Michele Siegmann
Alternates Garth Fletcher, Curt Spacht, Doug Whitbeck
Meeting began at 7:00. Minutes of 8/6/18 MEC meeting approved.

Highway Building lighting: The electrician has recommended Cree brand of LED lighting. Garth said this is very high quality. Cheaper brands are available but best to stick with electrician's recommendation for reliability and long-term performance. Eversource rebates are available for lighting systems that are more efficient than code. The electrician would give the receipts to Select Board and they would submit them to Eversource for rebates. Kathy will remind the Select Board that rebates are available.

Highway Building HVAC: Eversource's Russell Hunt has approved paying the contract for Doug Waitt's services to analyze HVAC needs and recommend systems to qualify for rebates. Doug is working on this now. MEC would like a description of the services Doug would be providing. (*Who would ask Russell Hunt about this?*)

Bernie O'Grady wants a direct line to Doug, he's glad that Eversource will pay 75% of the difference between a cheap HVAC system and a high quality one. Dave reported that the pipe for propane supply has been stubbed into the new building.

Remote controls for highway building doors will enable energy savings by allowing doors to be opened and closed more quickly. Five control buttons are needed on each remote – one for each door. Dave said the door guys are coming this week, he'll speak to them about remotes. Kathy will check with Eversource to see if rebates are available on doors, if better quality insulated doors are purchased.

When MEC members met with the Select Board about the possibility of using closed cell foam insulation rather than the fiberglass bib type that comes with the building, it was found to be too late to change. Fiberglass insulation encased in plastic is vulnerable to moisture entering through perforations that are inevitable during construction, reducing its insulating value and risking mold growth. The Select Board is aware that the insulation may need replacing sometime due to moisture buildup. Garth recommended that when a lift is used to install overhead lighting, the opportunity should be taken to inspect the insulation and make repairs.

Dave said there are plans to put up plywood 8 feet high to support racks. This would protect the insulation as well. Members thought it would be a good idea to add outlets for retractable trouble lights and also retractable air compressor hoses.

Prioritizing existing town buildings for energy audits: Margaret Dillon recommended last month that MEC should prioritize the buildings to be audited. Once we do this, we contact Anne Karczmarczyk of Eversource so she can contract with Margaret to do the energy audit. Liz will contact her on this, and ask if Eversource will pay for all of Margaret's audit services. MEC will need to consult with the Select Board on this if funds are needed. To cover a building's energy audit, Eversource ***“programs require that building use lights 2,000 hours annually, by meter.”*** (*Quote from MEC July minutes*) They are fuel-blind, meaning that if a building has oil or propane heat, they will still cover an audit.

Priority of existing town buildings for energy audits:

1. Mann House & library
2. Fire Department
3. Highway office & quonset hut (on same meter)
4. Police Department
5. Town Hall (lower priority due to engineering work that needs doing)

There was some discussion about including the communications tower, but it would be lowest priority, may not use enough electricity to qualify for an audit.

Curt then passed out **Energy Star Portfolio Manager** data gathering sheets. This data is needed to establish a benchmark for each building's energy use in comparison to similarly used buildings nationwide, and to track improvements. Garth has gathered electricity and heating fuel use data, and Curt found town insurance data on building sizes and ages but other info is required, and it's too much for one person to gather and enter data for all the buildings. Members volunteered to do the buildings as follows:

Liz -- Mann House & library

Kathy -- Fire Department

Dave -- Highway office & quonset hut

Michele -- Police Department

It seemed premature to do Portfolio Manager for the Town Hall before its worked on. Each volunteer will enter Garth and Curt's data for each town property into Portfolio Manager, and will ask the departments that manage each building for data on operating hours, staffing, and number of computers.

Warrant articles: Members discussed whether we should be planning for warrant articles to ask for funding for weatherization of town buildings. The necessity of this would depend on the results of energy audits, Members concluded that it's not up to MEC to present warrant articles, since the Select Board manages the town buildings. Instead MEC would make recommendations to the Board based on the results of energy audits. Then the Board would propose warrant articles as they decide based on MEC's recommendations.

Public Information: It would be good to have links on the town website to Local Energy Solutions (Henry Herndon's group) and Eversource energy efficiency info on residential rebates. Garth will forward these links to Alanna, Mason's webmaster.

Members felt that a public information session on energy issues would probably not be well attended. MEC's table at the 250th Celebration was not often visited, being in a more isolated area behind the Mann House. Better to disseminate energy efficiency info through social media. Having a MEC information table on voting days could raise awareness. MEC could also benefit from attending the Local Energy Solutions annual conference in Concord on Nov. 6th.

Clean diesel program: Dave brought up that in October, there's an opportunity for the town to apply for the Clean diesel program, to get a 25% rebate on replacing old diesel equipment. It works like cash for clunkers, the town would trade in a piece of working diesel equipment to replace it with new diesel equipment of the same type to get the rebate. The Select Board may like this. Dave needs help to find out more about how to apply. Doug will check on this.

Next meeting: October 1. MEC would like to learn more about other town energy commissions' experience. Temple is similar in size to Mason. Kathy will ask Bev Edwards, chair of Temple's Energy Commission if she can come to MEC's October meeting.

Summary of Action Items: Remind Select Board about Eversource rebates for lighting – Kathy

Ask Eversource Russell Hunt for description of Doug Waitt's contracted services --?

Ask Highway building door guys about remotes for doors – Dave

Ask Eversource if rebates are available on doors – Kathy

Ask Anne K of Eversource if Eversource will pay for all of Margaret's audit services –Liz (also let Anne know of MEC prioritizing of buildings to audit.)

Portfolio Manager data entry – volunteers as listed

Curt email Garth scans of his data (e.g., insurance company's building foot print data) to make available on Garth's unofficial town website.

Garth ask Alanna to put this data up on the official Mason web site.

Clean diesel program rebate application – Doug and Dave

Invite Bev Edwards of Temple Energy Commission to Oct meeting -- Liz

Meeting adjourned at 9:01pm.