

Mason Energy Commission Minutes draft January 7, 2019

Present: Members Kathy Chapman, Liz Fletcher, Michele Siegmann
Alternates Marina MacIntosh, Curt Spacht, Doug Whitbeck
Meeting began at 7:00. Minutes of 11/5/18 MEC meeting approved as amended.

Energy Audit: We reviewed Margaret Dillon's Mann House audit, funded by Eversource, which she completed right before Christmas. It's a well-researched and clear document that sets out estimated costs, payback times and return on investment for energy saving measures. Margaret presents these measures in two stages. The first stage is upgrading the building envelope: first sealing the foundation walls to keep out moisture (mold in basement & the 7-year-old furnace is rusting); then insulating and sealing air leaks in all ceilings (Mann House, main library and children's room); and insulating the walls all around and weatherstripping doors and windows. This stage is estimated to cost \$17,060, with a payback time of 8.2 years.

Liz reported that Eversource's Ann Karczmarczyk says that all this Mann House weatherization work qualifies for Eversource's 50% rebate. With this rebate, the estimated cost to the town would be \$8,530 with a payback time of only 4.2 years!

All members agreed that we want to strongly encourage the Select Board to support a warrant article for March 2019 Town Meeting that would enable all work related to upgrading the building envelope to be done this year.

The second stage of energy saving measures Margaret presented is converting the heating system to electric air source heat pumps. At present with oil costing \$2.56/gallon, this is not cost effective. But if (when) oil rises to \$3.50/gallon air source heat pumps will be an energy efficient way to go. This is something to keep in mind as oil prices rise and the existing furnace ages and needs replacement. Heat pumps should be part of a long range energy plan for the building.

Possible Funding Sources: For municipal projects, Scott Maslansky of Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) can offer 10 year Clean Energy Fund loans at 3.5%, \$15,000 minimum loan amount. Scot checked with USDA Community Development Grant program and found that Mason isn't eligible based on its median household income.

Eversource 50% rebates for weatherization seem like the best bet.

Presenting Audit to Select Board: We're quite sure MEC is on their agenda for tomorrow, not sure of exact time yet. Kathy will make color copies of the audit for each Board member. They were emailed the audit report. Michele and Liz will present the case for a warrant article to implement the audit.

Other business: Mike McGuire asked Kathy if MEC would like to support the warrant articles on wind and wood furnaces that were voted down last year. We agreed that Mike could come to the next meeting and discuss this with the group.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.