

## Mason Energy Commission Minutes March 2, 2020

Attending meeting: Joe Harney, (potential new member) Dave Morrison, Kathy Chapman, Curt Spacht, Michele Siegmann, Liz Fletcher, Garth Fletcher, Dick Stockdale, Darrell Scott, Michelle Scott

Dick Stockdale's nomination letter has been submitted to the BOS. The BOS will address Dick's appointment and the renewals of current members whose terms have expired this year at the end of March.

Approval of February Minutes: Garth moved to correct Doug's comment on the VTG charger. Curt moved to approve minutes as amended, Dave seconded, minutes approved.

### Upcoming Events and links

- Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> 7:30PM Mason Candidates Night Submit your questions before it starts (see suggestions at the end of minutes.
- Tuesday March 10<sup>th</sup> 2 pm Free webinar on heat pump use for individual homes or industry <https://www.achrnews.com/articles/130525-project-is-first-to-combine-solar-and-large-scale-heat-pump-in-district-heating>
- Saturday March 21<sup>st</sup> 2020 National Renewable Energy Day <https://ubique.americangeo.org/map-of-the-week/map-of-the-week-national-renewable-energy-day/>
- Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup> 4:30pm "Call of the Forest" documentary, Wilton Town Hall Theatre
- Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup> Souhegan Sustainability Fair 10-4 at Wilton Lyndeborough Cooperative School <https://www.souhegansustainability.com/>
- April 22<sup>nd</sup> Earth Day 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- September 21-25, 2020 is National Clean Energy Week <https://nationalcleanenergyweek.org/>
- For information on electric vehicles check this report <https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/surveying-consumers-electric-vehicles>
- September 26-October 4 National Drive Electric Week <https://driveelectricweek.org/>

**MEC welcomes guest:** Joe Harney has a physics and green energy construction background, and is currently teaching at Wentworth Institute of Technology. He reviewed the notes from past meetings, and feels there is potential to continue our efforts for alternative energy. The town uses about \$70,000 in electricity, fuel oil, propane and gasoline. Electric is about 17% of energy costs. He feels that in 10 or 20 years, wind is the way to go. Wind could make all the power Mason needed, and the 2 ridges of Mason provide likely locations. Having experienced the noise from turbines, Joe feels it is minimal while the imposing sight is probably more objectionable. Furthermore, it is possible for our solar panels on individual houses to be aggregated into one.

The Commission decided we should do more research on wind possibility here in Mason before putting this forward as a goal.

**Solar Tour Planning:** There's a national fall event on Clean Energy but we will stick to last week July 25 or 26<sup>th</sup>, and Aug 1 or 2 for our local event, **Mason Clean Energy Tour**. We added possible participants (see solar tour checklist below). So far we have representatives of most examples of alternative energy except passive solar, and wind.

Custodian Chris Rush for the pellet stove at the school will be contacted by Dave to be added to tour.

Topics for people who are on the tour to cover: Costs/benefits/how it works for them. How does it work, how was the installation, how much energy do you use, is it all the energy that you need? Do you own the system, rent? What is the payback time?

Homeowners may want to invite their energy source installer to be there as well. We decided not to advertise the tour too widely to make the tour unhurried and worthwhile for the participants and presenters. Tour times would be advertised as on the hour, not exceeding 3 hours at each home. If coming to take the tour, people would arrive at Town Hall for a map with the locations and sign up for locations so that we could distribute “tour takers” in a reasonable way. Find out from the participants what time works maybe on the hour so that after about 45 min, the people move to next house.

To determine the hosts on the tour, someone from the MEC will visit the house, find out if the energy they produce flows back to the grid, if there is a day/night variation, if they have spaces for tour participants to park, if they would like their energy installer to be present during the tour.

We can contact Granite state solar, and Revision as they may have places they have installed, and would recommend. See solar tour checklist below.

**Table at Town Meeting:** Kathy and Curt will set up by 8:30, Michele will be there later. Poster for Town Meeting: Needs to promote Save the Date for Chris Kolb, and Summer Energy Tour. Leftover energy info from ButtonUp, including Energy booklets, can be placed on the table Energy bars, tagged with save the dates info can be placed on the table.

**Durham construction checklist:** After considerable discussion: the MEC decided to invite Jake Olson who is the Mason building inspector, to come to our next meeting, and help us clarify how this non-binding checklist might be helpful to new home builders, and construction companies. Dave is inviting Jake to the next MEC meeting.

**Information on energy use by Town, and by households in Mason:** Darrell states that the expenditure on energy by the Town represents less than 2% of the total budget, so if we talk about reductions in energy costs, it can’t all be about what a big difference this will make on taxes. Total town budget about 2 million. \$70k on energy is small part. Biggest proportion, is gasoline. However, there are about 500 homes in Mason, and if we had some statistics on what each household spends for different types of energy, this might be more useful. Darrell has calculated his costs at about \$6000/yr with biggest cost for gasoline—reduced now that he works from home (retired).

Darrell would like a few people on commission to answer some questions , and compare costs of energy from individual homes. He will email MEC members with what to assess for this mini-survey.

Candidates night: What questions does the MEC have for the Mason candidates? Here are some suggestions: **What is your plan to keep people safe from a changing climate(this might include safe roads)? How do you think we should economically and ecologically handle the multiple mud seasons which have occurred for the last 3 years? What plans do you recommend for saving the town money on fossil fuels (by using alternative energy?) How can we get more electric vehicles into the Town fleet? Are there grants and funding from NH State? Fed?**

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Earth Day April 22 (or entire month)** Mason always has a roadside trash pickup. Blue bags are left by side of road for Town pickup. We will advertise on School sign, and Church sign. MEC will help CC to get bags out? Michelle will get bags to the school.

Wilton sustainability Fair—See upcoming events

At 8:54 Michele moved we adjourn, and Curt seconded, meeting was adjourned.

New Hampshire Communities for Climate Solutions <https://sites.google.com/view/carbon-cashback-coalition/>

### Upcoming Town meetings

Date	What	Primary	Alternate
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3/4 Tuesday 7:30pm	Candidates' night		
3/10 Tuesday 11am-7pm	Town election		
3/14 Saturday 9am-noon	Town meeting		
3/24/20 Tuesday 7:30pm	BOS	Mike McGuire	Michele Siegmann
3/25/20 Wednesday 7:30pm	PB	Doug	Liz
4/6/20 Monday 7pm	MEC		
4/28/20 Tuesday 7:30pm	BOS	Michele Siegmann	Mike McGuire
4/29/20 Wednesday 7:30pm	PB	Kathy	Michele Siegmann
5/4/20 Monday 7pm	MEC		
5/26/20	BOS	Michelle Scott	Garth Fletcher
5/27/20	PB	Liz	Doug

### Checklist for Chris Kolb event (Sunday 4/5 5:30pm-7:30pm)

- Get projector and screen
- Interface with Chris @ date, location, etc.
- Reserve (and rent?) church hall
- Advertise in church newsletter
- Advertise in Ledger + Cabinet
- Signs ?
- Advertise by town email
- Advertise by town FB
- Soup volunteers
- Bread volunteers
- Setup volunteers
- Cleanup volunteers
- Childcare? By reservation
- Someone to eat with Chris and help him set up if needed
- People to talk with attendees about their energy situation during dinner
- Help setting up for presentation
- Pass around attendee signup

### Checklist for tour -- (7/25or26 and8/1or2)

- Find out where the alternate energy sites in Mason are -- start with Clean Energy NH, call revision etc. to see where their customers are
- Decide on date
- Make list of things to do @ tour
- Making list of people who could be on the list
- Call people on the list
- Call energy installers

Make list of topics people on the list might cover

Local partners recruitment?

Promotional take-homes/flyers

Vendor event (nixed by MEC)

Create flyers

Give flyers to Denise and Kathy Wile to post in library/Mann House

Contact Bev Edwards to see what she needs to advertise: PDF or printed flyers

Email PDF of flyer to Henry to include in newsletter

Handouts for September election

Make materials, handouts to advertise at July/August/September Community Supper

Advertise at Mason Elementary

Advertise in newspaper

Advertise in Mason FB groups

Advertise Mason FB groups as part of the Community Supper advertisement

**Possible tour stops:**

Possible sites:

school

Dave

Mike

Curt+Kathy

Cross

Brady Schulman

Sumitra Haynes/Chris Leask

Barbara Devore

Bob Dillberger