

MARION ENERGY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

24 June 2013

1. The meeting convened at 7:10 PM in the Police Station.
2. EMC attendees:

David Pierce	Norman Hills
Rob Fisher	Jennifer Francis
Steve Kokkins	
3. Others present: Seth Pickering, Eileen Marum, Ted North
4. The minutes from April 3, 2013 meeting were approved as amended.
5. David Pierce provided an update for Seth Pickering:
 - Solar Overlay article passed at Spring Town Meeting. Jennifer will send a copy of the article to Seth for his review to verify that the wording meets the requirements of Criteria #1.
 - Solar Bylaw article did not pass at Spring Town Meeting. The draft bylaw has been revised and resubmitted to the Planning Board in advance of a scheduled discussion at the 15 July Planning Board meeting. Seth noted that he is not involved with the bylaw.
 - Three of the TNT Energy audit items were submitted for consideration for the Spring Town Meeting. The Sippican School lighting article is the only one that became a Town Meeting article; it was passed.
6. A lengthy discussion followed that touched on different aspects of achieving a Green Community designation:
 - Jennifer questioned the timing of applying for Green Community designation and what accomplishments can be counted, noting that we will not be ready for the Fall Town Meeting. Seth responded that he has to work backwards from the application date and what is the designated baseline year. He tries to work with the community to set the baseline year and can usually go back one fiscal year. Seth emphasized the use of the Mass Energy Insight program to help quantify the town's energy use. He had a printout that does not yet contain all the necessary input, with that limited data he said that it appeared that Marion was already decreasing its energy usage. Marion needs to complete the data entry. Norm will check with Judy Mooney to determine the progress.
 - Expect the vote on the new base building code this summer; that will be followed by a one-year concurrency period with the current base code. The new base code is not much different than the current stretch code, testing is the biggest difference. Right now there is no new stretch code in development; that will happen after the new base code is approved. Seth noted that as time progresses, the difference between the base code and the stretch code will probably continue to decrease. Seth reported that Acushnet just passed the stretch code with no drama.
 - The question of additional cost due to stretch code came up. Seth said that they have had an independent evaluation that estimates the cost difference at \$1 per square foot. This results in a payback period of 12 to 18 months. Some of the information is available on the website. He anticipates additional independent evaluations in the future. The stretch

code only affects the scope of work performed. Seth noted that he can speak to/train local builders if we want to set up a meeting.

7. Seth provided an update of the Green Communities program:

- There have been no changes in the program requirements, funding is strong
- In response to Steve's question of how the affluence of the community affects the initial grant, Seth responded that they have a standard formula which does include that characteristic. Without knowing all the particulars, he estimated that we might be eligible for \$125K as an initial grant, which can be used to pay for modifications to improve efficiency of town facilities.
- Competitive grants are also available, the maximum individual award is \$250K. Not all Green Communities have applied for competitive grants. He estimates that \$8M –\$ 9M of the annual \$10M budget goes to the grant program.
- 131 towns have accepted the stretch code, more than have achieved Green Community designation. He expects some of them to apply soon.
- Seth noted that 10% of grant money can be used by the town for administrative costs.

8. Seth said that the best way to proceed is:

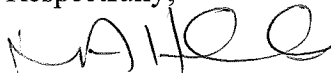
- Get the Mass Energy Insight program up and running
- Establish a baseline year
- Start accomplishing the energy efficiency projects that have been identified by TNT Energy. He might be able to get some grant money to help.

9. Energywise articles. Discussion focused on an update with respect to the solar project at the landfill. Jennifer noted that she had a discussion with a representative from Borrego who said that the SRECs have been depleted 7 years ahead of schedule; we should not issue an RFP until the new SREC program is known.

10. Future meeting dates presently scheduled for 2013: July 8, July 22, August 12, August 26, September 9, September 23, October 14, October 28, November 25, no December meeting. Meetings are scheduled twice a month in anticipation of work to have articles ready for the Fall Town Meeting on 28 October.

11. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully,



Norman Hills

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