

MARION ENERGY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

25 April 2016

1. The meeting convened at 7:00 PM in the Music Hall.

2. EMC attendees:

David Pierce

Norman Hills

Jennifer Francis

Jim Bride

Bill Saltonstall

Eileen Marum

3. Others present: Mark Croke (Clean Energy Collective), Andrea Ray (Wanderer)

4. Minutes: the minutes for 28 March 2016 were approved.

5. Mark Croke returned to provide more information on Clean Energy Collective's partnership program:

- His reiterated that it is his job to find anchor tenants that will commit to using one-half or more of the power generated by a large solar installation, with the remainder is divided for smaller residential or commercial users. Residents typically get a 10% discount and businesses get 15%
- A partner, such as Marion, would receive a one-time \$300 check for each resident who signed a 20-year contract. In addition to the reduced rate, each resident would also receive a one-time \$200 check for signing up.
- Mark noted that the 20-year contract may be a disincentive for some but reminded us that with a six-month notice a resident could break the contract. He will provide a copy of a contract for us to review
- If Marion wanted to become a partner, we would have to sign a contract, but there is no minimum number of residents required to sign up. One array can service about 40 homes. The array can be located anywhere in the region served by Eversource.

A number of questions were asked and answered:

- This reduction would be on top of the already applied energy aggregation savings, and it is applied to the entire electric bill, including delivery charges
- There are no nearby towns with a partner agreement, Mark will provide some information on towns in other states
- If we were first partner, Marion might be able to negotiate a better deal – either larger sign-up payments or a larger discount. Mark will to ask his management about options, such as if the Town's payment were reduced to \$200 check for each residential signup, perhaps CEC would give the residents a 15% discount.

David noted that we would have to digest this information before making a decision. If we decided to proceed we would have to present the concept to the Selectmen for approval and probably have a public hearing.

6. Green Community topics:

- Energy Insight program still stalled by the consolidated billing problem.
- David will provide Green Community program information to Jim.

7. Benson Brook Solar Garden (capped Landfill):

- Jennifer reported that she is continuing to talk to Senator Pacheco's lawyer (Kyle Murray). As we are at the end of the service line, the other projects involved basically don't care about

our project. It may be very expensive to make upgrades to infrastructure that would allow our project to connect to the grid.

- Bill wondered how Burr Brothers installed the solar on the buildings on Benson Brook Road, as they would have to connect to that same line to net meter the energy.

8. Tucker Road Solar Project:

- Norm reported that clearing has begun.

9. Other topics included:

- Future Generation Wind project – Bill reported that Eversource still needs to replace a transformer to get the system online, which is estimated in May now. Bill is working with ConEdison Solutions and Judy Mooney to get the billing process sorted out. Judy has talked to Joe Sullivan and seems to understand the complicated check handling process. Bill estimates at the present rates we should see about a 24.5% savings at the start.
- LED street lights – Rob was not able to attend but provided an electronic copy of the list of all the street lights that he has started to inspect. There are about 327 on the list.
- Energy Management Plan (EMP) – Eileen provide David a one-page write up that David handed out. It focused on the benefits of encouraging the installation of solar power systems. With continued encouragement we could achieve significant power independence and perhaps establish some microgrids. Bill pointed out that without some means of energy storage this would not work as we would still need the grid to distribute the power. We should consider making installations conditional on proper exposure.
- Electric cars – The first Nissan Leaf has been delivered at zero cost to the Town. Jen is working on a press release for sometime after elections. Norm noted that the car has a Town logo and is identified as Marion Recreation Department. Jen has been unsuccessful getting a response from the school on a naming contest so it was decided to drop the concept.
- Other towns – Jim has contacted the Dartmouth Town Administrator and reported the following:
 - Dartmouth's two solar projects offset 100% of their power
 - Dartmouth has installed 1600 LED streetlights
 - The solar farms do pay property taxes
 - They have been big on replacing older pumps and motors with variable speed units to provide savings
 - D. Chressman has volunteered to come talk to us if we would like, Jim will coordinate with him
 - They are using a "solar bee" to agitate their municipal water tanks

10. Energywise articles – The press release on the electric car, possibly one on energy aggregation.

11. Meetings for 2016 schedule: 23 May, 27 Jun, 25 Jul, 22 Aug, 26 Sep, 24 Oct, 28 Nov

12. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM.

Respectfully,
Norman Hills



2016 MAY 25 4:00
TOWN CLERK OF DARTMOUTH
VERMONT