

MARION ENERGY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
23 Apr 2012

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

David Pierce	Norman Hills
Rob Fisher	Bill Saltonstall
Jennifer Francis	Steve Kokkins
3. Others present: Ted North, Steve Grima, two newspaper representatives
4. The minutes from 26 Mar 2012 were approved.
5. Green Community qualification discussion:
 - Criterion #1 – as-of-right:
 - Bill has been investigating potential sites for large scale solar photovoltaic installation. The 2.4 acre top of the landfill is one site, conversation with the engineer that topped the landfill revealed that the State will not permit excavation for a foundation installation. Would have to use concrete blocks on top.
 - Bill has not been actively contacted potential companies that would be interested in establishing a solar farm similat to that in Brewster. He noted that Brewster is considering installing a second solar farm.
 - Marion has no zoning law for solar photovoltaic installations which means that one could not be permitted. Marion has little commercial/industrial zoning which means that an installation might be in a residential area. We need to investigate a zoning change, the Kingston By-law might be a good start. Chapter 40A requirements and their potential impact need further research.
 - Criterion #3 – energy audit:
 - Norm reported that TNT Energy has not yet provided report or responded to request for status. If nothing heard within a week, will call TNT.
 - Criterion #4 – Fuel efficient vehicles
 - No progress to report. Norm will work on update.
 - Criterion #5 -Stretch Code:
 - No progress to report, Bill has been working other items. He noted that building costs may rise some to meet the code requirements. Jennifer questioned if there were any estimates of pay back time of any raised costs. Steve noted that the frequency of building code changes results in confusion, there is not enough time to evaluate the effect of one change when another is implemented.
6. Town Meeting –
 - Bill noted that there is Town Meeting Warrant article to approve authorization for the Selectment to enter into a long-term lease for solar photovoltaic installation, but the zoning impact is still to be determined.

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- Another Warrant article to allow Selectmen to authorize an agreement that permits buying net-metered electricity from either wind or solar generators. The article is needed because such a commitment would exceed 5 years. So far there are two companies providing bids and he expects another to provide a bid. He cannot discuss details of the ongoing talks at this time. Right now the discussion involves Marion, Rochester and ORR. If this works out the town stands to achieve substantial reduced electrical costs, if it doesn't we will be right back where we are now.

7. Energy Wise articles:

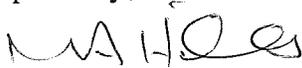
- Jennifer and Bill will write articles describing the two warrant articles to be voted at Town meeting.

8. Bill reported that MyGeneration is planning to provide a public talk to Marion residents interested in solar investment on 16 May. This initiated a discussion on the possibility of sponsoring a mini fair for solar developers. The meeting on 16 May might provide an indication of interest.

9. The meeting schedule for 2012 will continue to meet at 7PM on the fourth Monday of each month at the Music Hall. The projected meeting schedule is: 4 Jun, 25 Jun, 23 Jul, 27 Aug, 24 Sep, 22 Oct, 26 Nov. Note that the previously scheduled meeting for 28 May has been moved to 4 Jun.

10. Meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Respectfully,



Norman A. Hills, secretary