

MARION ENERGY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
22 Oct 2012

1. The meeting convened at 7:01PM in the Marion Music Hall.

2. Marion meeting attendees:

David Pierce	Norman Hills
Jennifer Francis	Steve Kokkins
Bill Saltonstall	

3. Others present: Ted North (Planning Board), Sherman Briggs (Planning Board), Scott Giordano (Wanderer)

4. The revision 1 minutes from 27 Aug 2012 were approved.

5. Green Community qualification discussion:

- Criterion #1 – as-of-right (bylaw):
 - Norm started by pointing out that the landfill is on lot 9 of map 24. Part of lot 9 is already included in the limited industrial zoning. As pointed out by Jon Witten, rezoning the whole lot to limited industrial would support the installation of a solar array and avoid charges of spot zoning as the lot already abutts the limited industrial zone. The lot is surrounded by land owned by either the Town or the Sippican Lands Trust. A positive vote of members present to pursue this change at the Spring Town Meeting.
 - Jennifer summarized the subcommittee meeting with the Planning Board. The draft provided to them was an attempt to meet the 40A requirements and not horribly impact local residents; to embrace the concept of solar energy. The Planning Board view is much more restrictive, making it too hard. Considerable discussion followed with the following points made:
 - Sherman – the concensus of the Planning Board does not support as-of-right. Maybe we should look at residential/agricultural zoning. Maybe we should identify other potential locations in town that could support a solar farm. Some people in town still have a bad taste after the exercise of locating cell towers in town.
 - Ted – provided a “Marion Solar Bylaw Terms Sheet” which contained specific requirements. He maintained that solar panels on house roofs would meet the Green Community requirements. With as-of-right zoning we would be attracting investors and land speculators. He has sent a letter to Paul Dawson questioning the insurability/liability of a solar array on the landfill.
 - Norm – pointed out that solar panels on house roofs does not meet the Green Community requirements. Also that most of his specific requirements would result in most lots not being able to be used for solar.
 - Bill – noted that we have to spell out reasonable requirements and that most houses do not have an ideal exposure so a solar garden idea would

support them. The EMC wants input from the Selectmen before scheduling another meeting of the subcommittees; he has a meeting with the Selectmen scheduled for the end of the month to discuss as-of-right. In the meantime, he and Jennifer are working on a revision to the proposed bylaw.

- Steve – tried to articulate three goals of the EMC: (1) have the landfill enabled for a solar facility, (2) express clearly the difference of as-of-right versus special permit, (3) how to facilitate use of solar arrays above the accessory category in other zoning areas. As a Planning Board member he is concerned that as-of-right is not defined well enough.
- Criterion #3 – energy audit:
 - Norm reported that he had talked to Seth Pickering after the September meeting and requested another company to work with as TNT has provided little information and it has been late. Seth countered that he wanted to make the system work. He will contact NSTAR and TNT. There is no progress to report so far.
- Criterion #4 – Fuel efficient vehicles
 - No progress to report.
- Criterion #5 -Stretch Code:
 - Was touched on lightly. Sherman questioned the impact on reconstruction efforts and wondered if a 40B project would have to comply with the stretch code. He also advocated educating the residents on the impacts.

6. Energy Wise articles:

- Discussion focused on developing articles to support the warrant articles we will be preparing for the Spring Town Meeting.

7. General Green Community – David noted that we are working on each individual aspect of the requirements and will bring them to the community when we are ready. Steve added that the five elements are positive but they need to flow through the community so that everyone understands. Steve also noted that Mr. Granger is accumulating performance data on his solar installation on his garage. He also has some installed on his business. We should consider scheduling him to provide us a presentation on the subject.

8. The meeting schedule for 2013 will continue to meet at 7PM on the fourth Monday of each month at the Music Hall. The 2013 meeting schedule was voted on and approved. The Fall Town Meeting is scheduled for 26 November so we will have to move our meeting. A number of possibilities were discussed but no decision made. Each committee member should provide David a list of potential alternate dates so that a decision can be made.

10. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully,



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