

MARION ENERGY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

26 August 2013

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

David Pierce	Norman Hills
Rob Fisher	Jennifer Francis
Bill Saltonstall	Eileen Marum
3. Others present: none
4. The revised minutes from July 22, 2013 meeting were approved.
5. Green Community topics:
 - Revised bylaw
 - Jen noted that amended draft version of the bylaw with Jon Witten's comments was received this afternoon. She will forward an electronic copy to the committee members. The biggest concern with this version is that it did not address the comments that the EMC had prepared with respect to identifying exactly what constituted a Steamlined Special Permit. Jen will email Jon to determine the discrepancy.
 - There was a lengthy discussion of the current version of the draft bylaw and the problems the EMC has with it. These have been documented in an email to the Friends of Solar and are provided below:
 - 1) **Some Planning Board members want to split the bylaw into two parts:** one for roof-mounted and small ground-mounted systems for individual homes, and another for larger "solar farms" that would produce electricity to sell to the grid. As you will read in the attached letter, we believe that the bylaw should address *all* solar installations, and that the restrictions outlined in the draft bylaw more than adequately regulate these systems. If the bylaw is split, the part addressing solar farms would have to be delayed until spring. There is nothing we will know then that we don't already know now, and there is no reason to split the bylaw.
 - 2) One of the restrictions on solar farms in the draft bylaw requires a **100-foot setback in addition to screening**. Many lots in town are long, narrow rectangles, and this overly large setback requirement would make many of those lots ineligible for solar farms.
 - 3) **Some Planning Board members want to prohibit solar farms from ALL lots that are zoned as residential districts.** While this may sound reasonable, you must realize that ~95% of Marion is zoned "residential," including cranberry bogs, wetlands, land owned by the Sippican Lands Trust, and, of course, buildable lots. If we prohibit solar farms from residential districts, we are effectively prohibiting solar farms in the town.
 - 4) **Some Planning Board members want to create a Solar Overlay District**, in which solar farms will be allowed. How is this district defined? Whose property can have solar farms and whose cannot? Who decides? The EMC feels this is a very arbitrary path that will lead to inequality in land-owner rights.

- After discussion, the EMC decided that if the Planning Board decides to proceed with a separate solar farm bylaw or decides to delay any action, then the EMC will not support that action and will submit our own draft bylaw. If this is necessary, a special meeting will be scheduled for 5 September to agree on the wording so that it can meet the submittal deadline for town meeting warrants. Jen volunteered to prepare a draft based on the current draft bylaw.
- A short discussion addressed modifying the Solar Bylaw signs that we used for Spring Town Meeting so that they can be reused for Fall Town Meeting.
- Energy Insight – Bill reported that Judy and Becky had planned to have the program formatted by August, he will check with them to determine if that has happened. Bill noted that he had committed to provide building areas and he has approximately 40% of the data and he is still working to obtain the remainder.
- Public meetings
 - Discussion focused on planning public meetings to educate the residents on the Green Community requirements in general and one to specifically address the Stretch Code. It was decided that we should wait until after the Fall Town Meeting and then do the general Green Community meeting first, followed by the Stretch Code meeting.

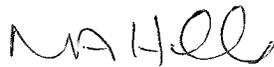
7. Energy Challenge – Bill and Jen are scheduled to meet with the representative later this week to discuss what they are attempting to accomplish with their questionnaire and how we can contribute.

8. Energywise articles – the committee reviewed and approved the energywise article submitted to the papers addressing the upcoming solar bylaw at Town Meeting.

9. Future meeting dates presently scheduled for 2013: September 5, 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.

10. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully,



Norman Hills

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