

# MARION ENERGY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

## Meeting Minutes

27 July 2015

1. The meeting convened at 7:05 PM in the Music Hall.
2. EMC attendees:

David Pierce	Norman Hills
Eileen Marum	Jennifer Francis
Bill Saltonstall	Rob Fisher
3. Others present: Paul Dawson, Ted North, Seth Pickering, Greg Carey
4. Minutes: the minutes for 27 April 2015 and 20 May 2015 were approved.
5. Green Community topics:
  - Stretch code – Seth Pickering reported that the 2009 Stretch Code is still in effect. He expects that approximately 1 January 2016 that the State will implement the new IEC 2015 base code. When that happens the only difference between the State Building Code and the Stretch Code will be the requirement to have a Home Energy Rating System (HERS) rating. When Bill asked how much additional cost is related for a HERS rating, Seth estimated \$1000.00. David mentioned having a meeting with contractors; Seth said he could do that and bring an expert. Seth noted that the Town would still have to accept the new Stretch Code to qualify for a Green Community, reporting that 157 towns/cities in the State have adopted the Stretch Code. With 131 towns/cities being designated Green Communities, one half the State population now lives in a Green Community. Seth then pointed out that since Acushnet has been a Green Community they have received approximately \$450K of grant money. Seth emphasized that the grant money is really our money generated from energy payments and Marion is not receiving any of it. He stated that the new administration continues to support the project.
  - Energy Insight – Bill summarized that we started two years ago and seemed to not be making any progress. Paul Dawson reported that bill problems with NSTAR and now EVERSOURCE are consuming a great deal of staff time. His first priority is to get these consolidated billing problems resolved. Seth requested that he be provided a synopsis so he can determine if he can help or not. Seth noted that the Town only has 4 accounts that are not yet set up in Energy Insight which was a surprise to Bill and Paul. Paul asked for help completing the setup and training on the system, he will coordinate with Seth and Bill.
  - Green Community 101 presentation – no update.
6. Benson Brook Solar Garden (capped Landfill):
  - Other projects that will be using this substation have formed a group and have not allowed our contractor to participate. Still waiting for Eversource to respond to them. Bill will provide Seth Pickering with details to determine if there is something that he might do to assist the progress of the Eversource evaluation. We need a grid connection before we can proceed with permitting.
7. Briggs Solar Project:
  - The Project is online, the EMC will discontinue reporting on this subject unless issues arise.
8. Perry Lane Solar Project:
  - Greg Carey represented the project. His company has about 20 projects in MA, either completed, under construction, or in the planning stage.
  - It will be a 1MW ground mounted system on land that is mostly in Marion and partially in Rochester. This requires filing in both towns and meeting the requirements of both towns. They are in the process of meeting with both Planning Boards and both Conservation Commissions.

- They will lease approximately 6.5 acres of hay field for the installation.
- Under their business concept, residents commit to the project with no money down and will receive 5% per month off of their electric bills for 20 years (estimated \$4K to \$5K savings over 20 years). Bill reported that his calculations show that this will result in similar savings as the Briggs Project.

9. Other topics included:

- Future Generation Wind project – foundation construction is underway. Turbine parts have been delivered to New Bedford but getting them to the construction site has been delayed by the Bourne Selectmen. CONEDISON trying to resolve the problem.
- Energy aggregation – a public hearing was held on 7 July 2015 and the BOS voted to proceed.
- LED street lights – Rob reported that he has been meeting with Judy Mooney but that the billing problem Paul talked about is impacting the ability to get the data he needs. Rob is also trying to get an Excel datasheet from EVERSOURCE that lists all the street lights but is having no luck. Bill will ask Seth about this situation and whether there is anything he can do to help. Rob reported that the lighting change over to LRDs was going very well at Bridgewater State University. The University is taking advantage of existing incentive programs that greatly reduce the cost of lighting improvements and remainder costs are charged on the utility bill over 24 months interest free. Many lighting products cost only one dollar.
- Sippican School energy savings - Still waiting for input from Gene Jones; Norm to keep after him.
- Eileen Energy Management Plan concept was discussed. Norm reported that there is plenty of information available online to help with the concept. Norm will develop a working draft for the EMC to work with. Jennifer stated that she had discussed the subject with SRPEDD to be considered as part of the Climate Resiliency study.
- Electric cars – Eileen had previously provided a copy of a news article about New Bedford leasing electric cars for approximately \$70 per month. Consensus was that this would be something to investigate. Discussion touched on the idea of installing charging stations in Marion and potential locations. Rob noted that the University has installed about 4 charging stations and the University thought that requiring payment to charge would be a negative incentive. David suggested developing the idea with the goal to have something for Town Meeting.

10. Energywise articles – still waiting for information on Sippican School for one possible article.

11. Reorganization: A motion was made and accepted that the present leadership of EMC will continue for the next year. David Pierce as Chairman, Norman Hills as Secretary.

12. Meetings for 2015 are: August 24, September 28, October 26, November 23. Times are at 7PM unless otherwise noted.

13. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully,



Norman Hills

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