

## MARION ENERGY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

28 March 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

Rob Fisher

3. Others present: Mark Croke (Clean Energy Collective)

4. Minutes: the minutes for 9 February 2016 were approved.

5. Mark Croke provided an overview of Clean Energy Collective's business model that he represented:

- The have some 30 projects in development in 11 states
- His is looking for sites and getting them shovel-ready for development
- CEC builds only solar farms and they own and operate them
- His goal is to find anchor tenants that will commit to using one-half or more of the power generated, the remainder is divided for smaller users.
- CEC gets better treatment from the Public Utility Commission and the Legislature because they develop the farms to supply residents, businesses, schools, churches, etc.
- Participants get a 20-year contract
- Residents get a 10% discount and businesses get 15%
- CEC has a partner program where the partner gets \$100 per kW to manage the users for a particular farm
- He is interested in working with the Town as a partner.

A number of questions were asked relating to the impact on energy aggregation, ability to get out of the 20-year contract, changes in incentive programs, impact on the Marion's existing Power Purchase Agreement. Mark answered each in turn. He committed to provide a copy of a typical contract for the members to review.

6. Green Community topics:

- Norm reported that he attended a Green Energy Seminar at the recent Citizen Planner Training Collaborative Annual Conference. It was given by Jim Barry, the Western Mass Regional Coordinator. It turns out that the Building Code and Stretch Code are almost the same and that the proposed Building Code will be stricter than the Stretch Code. A number of participants at the seminar were curious as to why Southeast Mass has so few Green Communities compared with the rest of the State.
- Discussion on the getting the Energy Insight program up and running touched on the fact that the Town's billing is still a problem. We are being double billed for some accounts. It is not clear when this will be resolved.
- Green Community 101 presentation – no update

7. Benson Brook Solar Garden (capped Landfill):

- Jennifer reported that as a result of the letter sent to Senator Pacheco, he and his lawyer are trying to set up a conference call on the subject. It sounds like the call may not be necessary as Luke Hinkle reports that it is not Eversource that is the impediment but it is the other projects that are blocking our participation.
- Bill noted that the landfill is at the end of the service line. He also 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. Bill is concerned that the whole process may be too expensive and we might have to sit it out -- maybe the CEC option would be better. Norm mentioned that before any decision was made, Town Counsel should be consulted.

8. Tucker Road Solar Project:

- No one knew the current status of the project.

9. Other topics included:

- Future Generation Wind project – Bill reported that all of the turbines have been erected and wired up. The latest snag in the process is that ISO New England wants a fiber optic data line. There remains one law suit that is unresolved. Bill is working with ConEdison Solutionsto understand the billing process with the intent of being able to determine that we are receiving the correct savings. He said the way the process will work is that Marion will pay the Eversource bill, then Eversource will send a check to ConEdison Solutions, and ConEdison Solutions will send an adjusted check to Marion.
- Energy aggregation – completed effort, will no longer track.
- LED street lights – Rob was able to get billing data from Judy earlier this week. He provided a one page spreadsheet of the electric accounts and identified the accounts with street lights. He is still trying to get information that tells us exactly where the lights are.
- Sippican School energy savings – Norm commented that we are probably never going to be able to figure this out. This item will be dropped.
- Energy Management Plan (EMP) – no update.
- Electric cars – The first Nissan Leaf was delivered today! It is hooked up to one of the two charging stations on the back of the Town House. Jen is working on a press release. Discussion focused on signage with no real decision other than the members thought it would be a good idea to have a naming contest for Sippican School students. Jen will pursue the concept with the Prinicipal and Town Administrator. Winner could ride in the car in the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade. It was also agreed that we should proceed with acquiring the next two vehicles that the BOS approved.
- Microgrid – Jim has contacted the Dartmouth Town Administrator. He reported that Dartmouth has hired an energy czar.

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

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

12. Meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM.

Respectfully,  
Norman Hills

