



Meeting Minutes
Marion Energy Management Committee
Held at the Marion Harbormaster Building
on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Alanna Nelson, Wistar Wood, Kim Holbrook, Tom Friedman.

Remote via Zoom: Jen Francis.

Absent: Christian Ingerslev.

1. Alanna called the regular meeting of the Energy Management Committee (EMC) to order at 6:08 pm.
2. **Approval of minutes:** Meeting minutes for November 18, 2025 were approved.
3. **Reports:**

a. Approve Annual Report:

b. CIPC Meeting held Nov 19 re DPW Solar in FY26: Capital Improvement Planning Committee (CIPC) positively accepted. They asked EMC to propose cost without any subsidies, to ensure approval in the event subsidies are not procured.

c. Select Board Meeting Jan 21: Funding of Solar: BoS approved funding solar at DPW building with funds still available since project came in under budget.

Jen favors hiring the contractor, My Generation Energy ("MGE"), that has been so helpful to date costing out the proposed project. We could provide letters of support for MGE. Jen will ask the Briggs, a customer of MGE, for a letter. They have a good reputation based on track record and longevity.

The federal ITC (commercial, municipal, tax-exempt) tax credit expires on December 31 2027. However, if you start a project before July 4th 2026, you have a 4-year extension to complete the project. There are multiple ways to "start a project" but the 5% safe harbor rule would apply here (meaning you have to pay 5% of construction costs). If the project does not start before July 4th, 2026, it needs to be completed before December 31, 2027. The DPW project, at its current size, would be able to be done before December 2027 even if it wasn't started until the end of next year, however starting before July 4 2026 would eliminate any risk.

Other Town properties to consider bringing to BoS for a solar array: Point Road fire station, Harbormaster building, Sippican School or parking lot, COA parking lot, COA annex roof, police station, land around DPW waste water treatment, and possible additional space on the new DPW building roof. Age of roof needs to be taken in consideration.

d. Future Generation Wind "Energy Saving Fund" next steps: The plan to create a "revolving fund" or "enterprise revolving fund," a dedicated account from which to draw

funds for energy-saving projects, was not deemed workable by the Town Administrator, because, among other issues, these types of funds can only accept "fee or fee equivalent."

- e. **Municipal Fleet Electrification Strategy next steps:** Alanna has reached out to Taryn Monroe, the former EMC member who had been overseeing this initiative, but she has not heard back. Marion is on the Eversource waiting list for the charging infrastructure program.
- f. **On-street Charging Solutions:** Kim will follow up with Amy Jackson-Grove, (Marion grant-writer).
- g. **Green Communities Video:** To be reviewed by Town Administrator before sending along to the BoS.

4. **New Business:**

- a. **Presentation by Constellation Energy (CE):** CE is a Massachusetts energy supplier with a variety of electric, renewable and natural gas plans. Alanna spoke with Charlotte Diogo of CE about getting the presentation from CE. CE's slide presentation mostly concerned electricity supply pricing for Marion and how it is dependent upon natural gas pricing in Massachusetts (Alanna had expected a presentation on natural gas pricing purchasing for Marion). CE talked about natural gas prices and how they change throughout the year, and CE options for providing large customers advantageous electricity pricing. Contracts are usually for 3 years. Would Marion like a quote?

Alanna shared this information with Town Finance Director, Heather O'Brien, who copied the Town Administrator, who responded that Marion is already participating in the Community Electricity Aggregation (CEA) program. Alanna thinks a municipal energy supply contract would be less expensive than the Community Electricity Aggregate prices offered to residential and small commercial customers.

- b. **Power backup facilities for Town-owned buildings:** Wistar shared the following information, provided by Geoff Gorman (Town Administrator), Shaun Cormier (Facilities Director), Jody Dickerson (DPW Director) and Gene Jones:
 - i. **Police** – Full-Service Generator – Diesel Fuel
 - ii. **Fire Station One** – Full-Service Generator – Diesel Fuel
 - iii. **Fire Station Two** – Full-Service Generator – Diesel Fuel
 - iv. **Town Hall** – Full-Service Generator – Diesel Fuel
 - v. **DPW Barn** (on Route 6) – Full-Service Generator – Natural Gas
 - vi. **New DPW Operations Center** – Full-Service Generator – Diesel Fuel
 - vii. **DPW Waster Water Treatment (Benson Brook Rd)** – Diesel Generator
 - viii. **Water Pumping Station (Pumping Station Rd)** – Propane Generator
 - ix. **Sippican School** – Full-Service Generator – Diesel Fuel
 - x. **Community Center** – Heat and Refrigeration only – Portable Gas Generator (Full-Service Diesel or Natural Gas Generator on Capital Plan 2029)
 - xi. **Library** – Heat, Emergency Lighting, Sump Pump only – Portable Gas Generator

xii. **Music Hall** - Heat, Emergency Lighting, Sump Pump only – Portable Gas Generator

xiii. **Harbormaster Building** – reportedly Portable Diesel Generator

Wistar pointed out that the buildings with inferior back-up systems (or future plans for back-up) appear to be the Library, Music Hall and Harbormaster building. Also, the COA appears underserved; given its importance, perhaps we propose solar/battery system to take place of proposed backup system in the budget for 2029.

Jen suggested we introduce idea of installing battery back-up systems for some of these buildings.

c. **Benson Brook Landfill Solar Project:** Jen suggests we revive this plan; developers have been expressing interest. She will follow up with the Town Administrator.

5. **Next Meeting:** Feb 23.

6. **Action Items:** Action items generated from this meeting:

- i. **Jen** to follow up with letters of support for MGE
- ii. **Alanna(?)** to collect list of properties that are candidates for solar arrays, to bring to BoS's attention.
- iii. **Alanna** to connect with Taryn on fleet electrification project.
- iv. **Kim** to distribute Green Communities video to EMC members.
- v. **Kim** to follow up with Amy about on-street charging solutions survey.
- vi. **Wistar** to follow up with Christian about collecting more power backup info
- vii. **Alanna** to check with Music Hall Advisory Committee about need for more permanent power backup infrastructure.
- viii. **Jen** to follow up with Geoff about reviving Landfill project.

7. **Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:06 p.m.