

**Enfield Energy Committee**  
**NOVEMBER 28, 2023**  
**Minutes**

**Meeting called to order at 6:01 pm**

**Attending:** Jo-Ellen Courtney, Tracy Young, Marta Ceroni (Chair)

**Excused:** Kim Quirk, Paul Morrison

**Not present:** Wendell Smith (alternate)

**Minutes from October**

**MOTION:** *Jo-Ellen moved to approve minutes with one change: Wendell participated remotely Tracy seconded. Approved unanimously.*

**DPW energy saving work**

The LED lights that the Energy Committee purchased, have been installed in the parts room at the DPW building. According to Charlie Clark, who provided the report, this change should reduce the electrical usage in that area by 66%.

Most of the insulation has been installed by Chey Insulation in DPW and “the change in temperature is very noticeable, both in the offices and in the storage area above the offices”.

We are grateful to Jo-Ellen for being in communication with Michele Harrison at NH Saves and for securing incentives in the amount of \$3,321.73 to support the insulation work at DPW (40% of cost). It is unlikely that the insulation work will make the ice dam issue on the roof in the back of DPW better, but we can certainly keep an eye on that.

**ACTION:** Marta remind/ask Jim Taylor to keep an eye on the back roof to see in in Jan/Feb whether the ice dam issues is in any way changing as a result of the insulation work.

**Community Power**

- Community Power is growing state-wide and is set to become second largest electricity buyer in New Hampshire. As of November 10, there have been 80,000 electric customers receiving Community Power across 16 municipalities. At the next board meeting of the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire new communities will be approved to join the Coalition, bringing the total to 50 communities (at different stages of development). In March 2024, 10 new communities will launch and 20 more communities will launch in summer 2024.
- Rates will be changing for the period February through July. New rates will be discussed at the December CPCNH board meeting and will be announced on January 2 (the current rates are the same as the utility companies’).

- The Selectboard authorized Ed Morris to be the Town's Community Power officer, responsible for recommitting Enfield to Community Power each year based on new rates.
- CPCNH sends customer refresh mailers quarterly to identify new customers who have moved in or switched from a third-party provider. The mailers notify them of the potential to make a choice.
- There has been progress from Liberty Utilities in removing hurdles to serve net metered customers, but challenges are expected for net metering customers who produce more electricity than they use.
- Jo-Ellen has been supporting Canaan in working towards Community Power. A group there has held their second meeting and is planning the next steps from here to Spring of 2025 (when they expect to be able to launch), such as having the Community Power committee approved by the Town, building understanding and support with the Canaan Select Board, presenting the Canaan Community Power Plan for a vote at Town Meeting.
- Jo-Ellen also went to Bristol with Andrew Hatch for a public info meeting. Bristol signed the Joint Power Agreement.

**ACTION:** Kim and Jo-Ellen to attend an upcoming Board meeting to present the new rates and savings at the same time

## **Municipal buildings**

Michele Harrison will review designs of the Whitney Hall renovation. It's not going to have solar because of its existing structure. The flat roof will have roof mounted heat pumps.

The library is boxing books in 800 boxes, as they move to the gift shop of La Salette. Municipal offices are also packing now (after having been for over 100 years in Whitney Hall), will shut down next week and move to the cafeteria building. They will be there for at least a year.

Groundbreaking of the renovated building will be around the 14<sup>th</sup> of December. There is an expectation that the contractor will dig right away for the addition, before the ground freezes. The addition will be on drilled-in columns of concrete as the backyard wasn't suitable for foundations due to the presence of recovered fills.

## **Communications**

**ACTION:** Marta will send a blurb to Alisa on energy savings solutions to be published in the newsletter and will post these solutions to the Enfield listserv.

## **Local Energy Solutions**

Jo-Ellen mentioned that a map of sites of ground mounted solar in the US of 1MW (a size that can power 900 homes annually) showed NH as a blank, i.e. there are no major solar arrays in the state.

**ACTION:** Jo-Ellen will share with committee members:

- video access to the conference
- recording of Plainfield and Cornish program on batteries
- map of 1MW+ solar arrays in the US (where NH shows up as a blank)

## **Planning for 2024**

There was appreciation for the visioning session report, which captured the conversation in a complete and accurate fashion. We discussed the possibility of revising the Committee's mission statement (why we exist) so that it would better reflect the Committee's vision going forward. If we engage with a mission redraft, we will need to share it with the Select Board for update or approval.

**ACTION:** Marta will draft a new mission statement to present at the January Energy Committee meeting

## **Other**

- The next Energy Committee meeting will be on January 23, the December meeting will be canceled
- Committee's spending for 2023: we don't expect to have any expenses between now and the end of the year. In the January meeting we will get further clarity on actionable activities to advance the Committee's vision (some of which will have budgetary implications). We expect that we will have expenses for educational materials, events, and partnership activities.

**ACTION:** Marta to be in touch with Alisa regarding the end-of-year Enfield report due in early January. Jo-Ellen will write the Community Power section.

**ACTION:** Marta will ask Alisa about the possibility to present at Town Meeting and share some of the successes of our work.

**ACTION:** Jo-Ellen will contact Mascoma Valley Regional High School to inquire about any developments with their energy manager grant

**ACTION:** Kim (whenever it makes sense) will contact the Enfield Village School to determine whether they are under Community Power or through a separate SAU contract

Marta moved to adjourn the meeting; Jo-Ellen seconded. Approved unanimously. Adjourned at 7:10pm

***Preview of January Agenda***

- Mission statement
- Top concrete priorities for advancing the vision
- Presenting at March Town meeting