

Enfield Energy Committee

March 23, 2021

MINUTES

Attending: Kim Quirk, Charles Clark, Marta Ceroni (note taker), Gary Hutchins, Jo-Ellen Courtney

Excused: Kurt Gotthardt **Guest:** Andy Van Abs

Approval of minutes January 2021 and February 2021

Both the January and February 2021 minutes were modified to more accurately reflect the previous meetings.

COMMUNITY POWER AGGREGATION

The Community Power Coalition of NH (CPCNH) is made up of towns and cities in the state, and their mission statement is to “To foster resilient New Hampshire communities by empowering them to realize their energy goals through civic engagement public education and technical assistance. ”

As part of the CPCNH Enfield will have an opportunity to be involved in the choice of energy sources. We don't have that power right now. And Enfield alone is too small to negotiate (2,500 households) we need more towns to be involved to buy power at the lowest rate and offer it to communities.

As the Energy Committee our role will be to educate people, speaking about this in simple terms.

The Energy Committee subgroup dedicated to community power hasn't gotten approval from the town manager, but we are treated as interested party who has done most steps to be part of the coalition. Once the subgroup is approved by Select Board, we need to sign someone up to represent us at meetings

ACTION PLAN for the Community Power Subcommittee:

Jo-Ellen will send the Community Power Coalition NH Joint Powers Agreement information and summary to members. We will all familiarize ourselves with it. Kim will distill this information and make it as easy as possible. She will test the education with the committee.

Someone from the subgroup on community power, will prep and go to Selectboard meeting to educate them.

We will hold two public meetings before warrant article. We have one year to get something on the warrant and educate people. It may be possible to provide handouts on community power, e.g. at Town Meeting on May 1.

Liberty Utilities will need to be contacted to get the list of their customers.

UPDATES

NH HB 315 it will go to the full house soon

Status of HB 315: negotiation is continuing. Cliff Bellow and several others worked to revise the bill. It has been passed the House Science Technology and Energy committee level and will go to the entire House. Items remaining in the bill is not hurting the opt-out default. The changes made were removing what was hurting community power.

DPW solar

The solar contractor has the equipment of site, scheduled to start next week. There is the possibility to increase the size of the installation from 60KW to 80KW, the 20KW extra could cover the energy consumption for the Love Joy Brook pump station.

Audit of Union St Fire Station

Jim Taylor, DPW head is in favor of energy audit at fire station, which comes for free from Liberty Utilities. That building isn't ideal from an energy use perspective, it was meant to be a temporary building, the railroad station's basement floods regularly.

Education

Jo-Ellen and Barb Callaway of Weatherize Hanover offered the NHSaves program, fewer than 25 people attended (50 signed up); Utility companies provide weatherization funds. They offer up to \$80K and interest free loans that one could pay off via bill.

Jo-Ellen will put information about NHSaves in the Town newsletter.

OTHER

Charlie has data of electric energy usage for past 8 years for DPW, town hall, police station and community building. He reports a 50% reduction in the energy consumption at community building

Town Hall could use mini-splits to cut its amount of oil consumption.

Gary looked into electric Lawn mowers for parks and rec crew as a replacement for the gas-fueled equipment. But it seems that at the moment is not very cost effective.

RESOURCES (shared by Charlie)

Link to Community Power Meeting: <https://youtu.be/yJpYF1WV8s8>

Link to Offshore wind in NH: <https://www.nhpr.org/post/nh-senate-advances-offshore-wind-procurement-plan-near-unanimous-vote#stream/0>

Adjourned at 6:45pm