

Enfield Energy Committee
May 23, 2023
Minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:05pm

Present: Marta Ceroni, Jo-Ellen Courtney, Wendell Smith, Tracy Young,

Absent: Kim Quirk (excused)

Minutes Approval with no suggested changes

UPDATES

Community Power

The new CEO of Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH), Brian Callnan, started on May 22. A welcoming reception is planned within the next month. A few Enfield residents have asked questions about their current electric bill. Meters were read mid-May. Bills for electricity use from mid-May to mid-June might be received around June 20. They will be due in July and will reflect the new rates of Enfield Community Power.

Jo-Ellen has written a note in the Town newsletter and the listserv about when Enfield Community Power rates will be reflected in people's bills. She will submit it again as a reminder. Kim has been re-elected as treasurer for CPCNH for one year (congratulations!). There is a CPCNH vote coming up that may need to go to the Enfield Selectboard for approval. In three months (August) rates will change; Enfield residents will be reminded that they can make their choices.

For more information we point residents to: <https://www.enfield.communitypowernh.gov/>

ACTION: Jo-Ellen will send another notice on listserv about the first Enfield Community Power billing cycle.

ACTION (August): Update Enfield residents regarding new rates and choices

Municipal Facilities

Kim Quirk and Tracy Young serve on this Committee.

The Town received the design proposals for the Emergency Services building. Heat pumps will be the main mode of heating as they can both heat and cool the spaces. A propane boiler is being considered for backup during emergencies. Sub-slab insulation for radiant heating seems cost-prohibitive. An overhead infrared tube system will be used. The apparatus bay will be heated minimally.

Whitney Hall: On May 30, there will be a design meeting regarding Whitney Hall's mechanical, plumbing, and electric systems. The building will be gutted to the studs and will be insulated from the inside. Heat pumps will be considered, with a possibility of increasing the

airconditioned area. The third floor has no AC, it is not clear yet how much AC will be needed, and it will depend on how that space will be used now that Shaker Bridge Theater has moved out. Whitney Hall is a 1910 historical building, windows can't be replaced, they most likely will get interior storm windows. Overall, this will be a huge change considering that the municipal offices were minimally remodeled and insulated in the 70s and no additional insulation work was done to date.

DPW Energy Audits

The Energy Committee aims to connect and work with the Capital Improvements Committee and Town Manager to move things forward in the insulation work at DPW. The DPW building is a pre-engineered metal structure with issues of ice damming and little or no insulation (e.g., in the attic). There is funding allocated by the Town for energy efficiency work at DPW (\$135,000), we have two thorough energy audits that can help identify improvements, so it feels an appropriate time to work on this. Tracy sent the two energy audits that were done for the DPW building to the Town Manager.

ACTION: Tracy will connect with Jim Taylor (Director of Public Works) to share that the Energy Committee is looking into moving the DPW energy work forward.

Energy Committee Membership

Kim Quirk's request for volunteers drew interest from two Enfield residents. One of them, Paul Morris, joined the meeting remotely. Paul brings experience in operations management and plans to attend the next meeting.

We have one seat open on the Energy Committee. There will be volunteering opportunities as we start engaging in projects again, after having spent most of our energies on the launch of the Enfield Community Power. We reviewed some of the Energy Committee's historic projects such as the streetlights and weatherization initiatives.

Master Plan

The first five chapters of the Master Plan have been completed. There is still ample opportunity to contribute suggestions. There will be an opportunity to participate as Energy Committee in the second phase and remaining chapters. Tracy feels that community solar is something we should consider as the Energy Committee engages with the Master Plan work. Eric Russell is the Town's representative to the master plan.

ACTION (June meeting): Nominate a member of the Energy Committee to represent us to the Master Plan

NEW BUSINESS

- There was interest in the members of the Energy Committee to revisit the streetlights project and see whether this might be the time to put the Enfield residents' decision to shut some of them down to action.
- We briefly reviewed the merit of a past NH DoE grant opportunity for Community Solar Photovoltaic for Low- and Moderate-Income Residents and postponed the discussion to the June meeting.

- Tracy feels that there is more that the Energy Committee can do to communicate energy and cost savings from Enfield Community Power and the DPW's solar array with the Selectboard. Now that we have more data available it would be a great time to share information on the benefits of these projects for the Town and the residents.

ACTION (July or August): present to the Selectboard:

- Second year of DPW solar data
- Electricity rates comparison between June 2022 vs June 2023 before and after Enfield Community Power.

OTHER

Marta will join the June 27 meeting remotely due to travels.

Meeting adjourns, 7:08pm