

Enfield Energy Committee
April 25, 2023

Meeting called to order at 6:05

Present: Jo-Ellen Courtney, Marta Ceroni, Kim Quirk, Tracy Young

Absent: Wendell Smith

Minutes Approval with suggested changes:

- Tracy Young is considered full membership to the committee not ex-officio.
- The Community Power information session and Q&A concluded at 6:50 pm. Members of the community in person and online departed at that time.

UPDATES

Community Power

52 people attended the in-person Enfield Community Power information session on April 3 at the Community Building. Since then, additional questions have been answered via listserv.

Regarding the mailings, there was an omission in the second line of address information from Liberty Utilities. About 100 Enfield mailers did not make it to their destination. In consultation with the Office of Energy, the decision was made to enroll the default energy residents even if they didn't get the mailer.

Eversource put a hold on enrolling residents the week before launching, which is still being resolved but may delay Eversource customers being enrolled. We will be putting information on the listserv and in the town newsletter. Enfield has 66 customers who might be affected by this.

Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire has hired a CEO, Brian Callnan, who joined the Annual meeting held on April 22. He is formally starting in late May. He is currently an executive at New Hampshire Electric Cooperative.

There are now 33 members (32 communities and 1 county) who are part of CPCNH. At the annual board meeting, there was a separation of board directors and members. Directors don't have replacements on the board and there are now only 20 Board members. Membership (primary and alternates) is made up of two people, appointed by the Town/City executive committee.

Municipal Facilities

Just interviewed two firms for Whitney Hall renovation.

Emergency Services building (Public Services, the name hasn't been settled on) - working with architect to try to meet what we said we wanted at Town Meeting (2022) based on the budget. Inflation is making this more and more difficult. Still hope to keep heat pumps as the heat/cooling in the main building. Not as likely to have a fossil fuel free apparatus bay.

It has been difficult to get all the design phases together for the Emergency Facilities, so there is discussion of how to move forward with the Whitney Hall upgrades in parallel.

Energy Committee Membership

Marta will be the chair starting next month. Kim made a motion to elect Jo-Ellen Courtney as vice chair, to be able to take Marta's place if necessary.

Jo-Ellen will ask Ed Morris to put a request for volunteers into the newsletter, as well as a reminder about community power bills coming out in June.

Kim will put a request out on listserv for volunteers as well.

New Business

Master Plan

Rob Taylor said they were waiting to hear about a grant to get the group together to start the next phase discussion.

Gary Hutchins was designated to be on the Master Plan group as an energy committee liaison. Since he is no longer a member of the committee, we are not sure of his status

Inflation Reduction Act - grants/projects

Marta is looking into grants - she saw one opportunity from the NH Department of Energy to support solar for low-moderate income communities. The turnaround time from announcement to deadline was not enough time to reply. These grants seem to be looking for projects plans already developed. We should review this recent opportunity it in preparation for the next grant.

DPW building

This building has had two levels of energy audits and funds were approved in the Town budget to make some changes (\$135,000). There has been difficulty getting to the next step, specifically getting any company willing to do the work.

Jo-Ellen will send out electronically the most recent DPW electronic energy audit so we can think about actions that can be taken.

Meeting adjourn, 7:05