

Enfield Energy Committee
June 27, 2023
Minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:09pm

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

Absent: Wendell Smith

Guests: Paul Morrison, Keith Thomas

Energy Committee Membership

Paul is interested in joining the Energy Committee. Thanks for considering this volunteer opportunity, Paul!

Please send an email to Alisa Bonnette asking to be considered for membership of the Energy Committee. That will go before the Selectboard, and they will vote on it. The final step is to be sworn in as a member.

Minutes Approval

Paul requested a change spell his last name correctly, "Morrison", not "Morris".

Unanimous approval of the minutes of 5/23/23 with the requested change.

UPDATES

Community Power

The bills have arrived to Enfield residents and businesses with the 15.8cents/kWh rate and the message that the customer is on Community Power. Those rates are in effect until end of July. Today CPCNH (Community Power Coalition of NH) deliberated on the rates for Community Power for the next period, August through the end of January. The rates won't be final until Friday, but it looks like Enfield Community Power will go down from 15.8 cents to 10.9 cents/kWh – which is great!

Liberty, Unitil and Eversource default energy rates are also going down for this next rate period. They are: Liberty - 12.242cents, Unitil - 13.257cents, and Eversource -12.582cents. These rates all need to be approved by the PUC, so this isn't final information. It is great that both the Community Power Granite Basic and the Granite Plus (33% renewable) have rates that come in below the public utility default rates.

Keith asked about the distribution charge increase that Liberty has submitted to the PUC, which is quite a bit higher than the current distribution rate. This charge is separate from the energy source and Enfield Community Power doesn't have anything to do or say about it. It is disappointing that it is going up just as we are getting started with bringing energy source rates down. The public utilities usually only ask for a distribution rate increase once every 3+ years. On July 11th there will be a welcome event to CPCNH's new CEO, Brian Callnan, who is a resident of Hanover. The event will be at Dartmouth's Irving Institute, but we don't know the time yet. Selectboards, energy committees and the general public from the participating communities and those thinking about joining the coalition are encouraged to attend.

Municipal Facilities Advisory Committee

Tracy provided an update – The Emergency Services building has a plan to include and rely as much as possible on heat pumps for the main office building. There is ongoing discussion as to whether there should be propane back up or as a secondary fuel source due to the emergency shelter nature of the facility. The apparatus bay and sally ports will not be able to be heated with heat pumps or radiant floor due to the huge heat loss when the vehicle doors are opened. Heat recovery has to be very fast. Right now, the most efficient heating system for large garage-type bays is with propane fired radiant tubes from the ceiling.

There is continued discussion about ensuring that the roof can handle the load of future solar panels as well as the possibility of solar on the ground nearby.

The Whitney Hall bid package has gone and is asking for all electric (heat pump) heating/cooling for both the new and old section of the building. There isn't any roof or ground space for solar. Offsetting energy via solar for that building would need to be located on a different site as the roof has too many surfaces and there won't be any ground space left once the expansion has been built and allowing for parking.

Public comment – Keith recommended that closed cell foam is the best insulation to get the lowest air infiltration. He recommended that this is better than Styrofoam.

He also recommended that there be a sewer/drain in the apparatus bay for washing vehicles and allowing snow run off. Perhaps solar for Whitney Hall could be solar panels over the parking area. We discussed this idea, and it is something that could be added later since there is no money in the bond approval at this time.

Master Plan

We would like someone to represent the Energy Committee on the Master Plan. Jo-Ellen has volunteered.

* **ACTION:** Jo-Ellen will contact Rob Taylor to let him know that she is the liaison.

DPW Energy Audits

Tracy reached out to the Town Manager to ask if he has the reports, which he does. Tracy recommended that the next step might be for the Energy Committee to send a note to Ed asking if there is some action that can be taken.

* **ACTION:** Marta will send a note to Ed to remind him that there was money allocated to this energy efficiency for the DPW and there was an energy audit...so how can we help to get something done.

NEW BUSINESS

Communications

Tracy noted that communications from this committee are really important for our residents. Charlie Clark sent out a note about the solar array production. How do we summarize this information to describe how much this array has saved the town?

* **ACTION:** Kim will work with Charlie on how to convert his notes to savings.

* **ACTION:** For the June Town newsletter Jo-Ellen will provide an update on Community Power rates.

***ACTION:** Marta will take over preparing blurbs for the Newsletter and Listserv communications going forward.

Thoughts for future priorities of the Energy Committee:

- NH Municipal Association - they are providing coaching support for grant writing
- Need to investigate 3 phase power for future solar; distribution/ transmission
- Better ways to communicate with residents
- Getting more people engaged and involved in the energy committee
- Can we help with the School energy efficiency grant that Mascoma just received.
 - **ACTION:** Tracy will send a note out to the superintendent to introduce the Enfield Energy committee as a resource.

Meeting adjourned 7:12