

Enfield Energy Committee
JANUARY 23, 2024
Minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:03 pm

Attending: Jo-Ellen Courtney (remotely), Tracy Young, Kim Quirk, Marta Ceroni (Chair), Wendell Smith (remotely)

Guests: Bob Benson, Grantham Energy Community (remotely), Charlie Clark

Minutes from November

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

Discussion of Community Solar Farm with Bob Benson

Bob Benson has been considering developing a solar farm in Canaan on his 200 acres property located at the end of May St (the property borders on one side the Hanover town line). A lot of the property was cleared last year. Norwich Solar has a plan to put 1MW solar array there. They did a survey, a wetland study and submitted the information to Liberty Utilities. They came back with very large interconnect/upgrade fees. Kim provided some thoughts about the costs as being real and difficult to bypass. The conversation then focused on whether a multi-town coalition might have better negotiation capacity with Liberty Utilities. Would Community Power Coalition of NH be interested in providing support for this project to move forward and eventually sourcing electricity from Bob Benson's solar array?

Marta felt it would be important to know what the implications and benefits of the solar array for the Enfield community would be. Wendell mentioned that creating and storing hydrogen at the site of a large solar array avoids all the problems with interconnect fees.

ACTION: Bob Benson will bring any info he gets on this process to Jo-Ellen so we can stay in touch

DPW projects

Charlie Clark reported that the road crew only had a cold water sink for 20+ years. Charlie installed a small \$200 hot water under sink tank, which has made a big difference in the day to day. The energy committee applauds the work to help make the DPW building a better space where to work, but doesn't see this improvement as an energy saving device.

Charlie would like to improve the DPW solar array production, as we missed about 1.5 weeks in January due to snow. There are now products available that might help with shedding the snow more quickly. The conversation then focused on how the Town of Enfield might purchase the solar array after the first five years since installation (June 2024 will be the end of the third year since installation). One possible source of funding could be the TIF (Tax Increment Finance) budget allocation. There is also the possibility of taking out a loan which will cost less than the savings generated by the array.

ACTION: Charlie will share the original solar array agreement with the Energy Committee.

ACTION: Marta will put this on the agenda for next meeting.

Community Power

New rates go into effect Feb 1. For Enfield the rate will be 8.1 cents/kWh for the basic option, 12.6 cents/kWh for the 100% clean energy option.

Twelve additional communities are launching in March. Canaan is creating their Community Power committee. We expect 28 communities will be the total served by CPCNH when this cohort of towns launches in the spring.

As of now "clean" energy within CPCNH is achieved by buying RECs¹ (Renewable Energy Certificates) to meet the Clean energy percentages. This will likely change as CPCNH is mapping local and regional sources of clean energy. Another obstacle to effectively sourcing clean energy in New Hampshire is the limit of 1MW for net metering.

ACTION: Jo-Ellen and Kim will plan on presenting to the Selectboard on Community Power at the March 4th meeting

Energy Committee at Town Meeting

Town meeting is Saturday March 16th. Marta contacted Alisa about the Energy Committee providing an update at the end of Town Meeting. A brief intro and any slides/graphics should be provided to Alisa ahead of time. Tracy suggested that we use that time to explain 'Community Power' once again, stressing in particular that CPCNH customers don't have to take any action as they are automatically added (opt in or opt out). Jo-Ellen suggested we include the rates and differences from utilities and provide information on total savings. There also was a question of what graphic might be helpful to include in the presentation.

ACTION: Marta will ask Lindsay if we can jump in with our presentation during a vote at some point rather than waiting until the end.

ACTION: Kim and Jo-Ellen with support of the Committee will draft an initial presentation on Community Power to be used in the meeting with the Selectboard and at Town Meeting

Communications Opportunities (newsletter / listserv)

February newsletter deadline is coming - we should get the new rates into the newsletter.

ACTION: Jo-Ellen agreed to put together a note for the newsletter about the new rates.

Master Planning group

ACTION: Jo-Ellen will be the energy representative on the Jan 29th meeting of the master planning group and keep us apprised.

Enfield Streetlights

Charlie was able to connect with someone at Liberty Utilities who was able to quickly respond to an outage of streetlights. As a result, all of Enfield's streetlights have by now been repaired and functioning according to their programmed schedule (instead of running all day).

¹ Once the power provider has fed the energy into the grid, the REC received can then be sold on the open market as an energy commodity.

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

Preview of February Agenda

- Presenting at March Town meeting
- Possible purchase of the DPW solar array by the Town
- Mission statement