

Town of Canterbury, NH
Energy Committee
Date: 2023 June 05
Location: Elkins Library

Members Present:

Jeff Beltramo, Claudia Leidinger, Beth McGuinn, Howard Moffett, Fred Portnoy

Others Present:

Kent Ruesswick (Board of Selectmen representative), Malcolm Bliss (Kearsarge Energy LP) (7:04 – 7:10)

Agenda:

1. Call to Order
 - a. Time: 7:04
2. Malcolm Bliss from [Kearsarge Energy LP](#)
 - a. Malcolm is a rep for Kearsarge Energy, he dropped off information about their program and his contact info.
 - b. They are a renewable energy project development and holding company out of Boston.
 - c. They are building a system in Unitil territory (which is what the town buildings are in) and want to know if we would be interested in group net metering. Essentially they build solar farms and we would purchase energy through them.
3. Previous Minutes
 - a. Several edits made in the Google Doc. Final copy will be sent to town website.
 - b. Claudia moved to approve, Kent seconded, all approved
4. Community Power
 - a. Re Kearsarge proposal
 - i. Do we want to start vetting unsolicited sales proposals? Do we have expertise and time?
 - ii. Beth will need to recuse herself because she works for Revision Energy, but she has the most detailed knowledge about this topic in the Energy Committee (EC) or Canterbury Community Power Committee (CCPC).
 - iii. We might want to build our own instead of contracting with another company.
 - iv. There are now two committees in town focused on energy: EC (municipal power) and CCPC (entire town). We will need to work on defining the differences going forward.
 - v. CCPC will look to [Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire](#) (CPCNH) for neutral information regarding companies we may wish to contract with. CPCNH will not be building systems, only looking at proposals and advising. However, CPCNH could purchase excess power from a Canterbury generation project, or Canterbury could use the power from a Canterbury generation project to further reduce rates charged to CCPC customers.
 - b. Monetary reserves from CCPC
 - i. Now that Canterbury is a member of CPCNH, reserves are building up that will become available to the town in three years.
 - ii. A peek at how these funds are applied and will accumulate:
 1. In June/July 2023 CPCNH expects CCPC to generate \$143k in “total community benefits”: 40% in rate reductions from Unitil and Eversource default rates, and 60% in allocated reserve funds
 2. New rates will take effect August 1st and every six months thereafter. Because all NH electric retail rates are expected to decline for the 6-month period from August

'23 through January '24, both forms of community benefit are expected to be lower in absolute dollars, but should continue to be significant in each 6-month period going forward.

- iii. The Board of Selectmen (BoS) could use the money to reduce rates even further, build our own solar/wind farm, or move the town to net-zero by a certain date (as some other NH towns have been doing). It would take about three years to go from leasing land to building electricity on it, so if the town would like to pursue that type of project, we should start thinking about it now.
- c. Beth suggests at EC and CCPC meetings there is a rep from the other committee to do a summary of what is happening, and maybe have a separate meeting with both committees.
 - i. CCPC next meeting is June 27th 7pm at Municipal Complex in Fire Department training room. Their meeting cadence going forward is about one per season.
5. Finalize [Resilient Buildings Group](#) (RBG) request for quote
 - a. [Dana Nute](#) is the president of RBG and is the person who work with Elkins Library previously. The library has three arrays and they need some work. One of them is consistently generating less than the other two, but we need a licensed electrician to take a look.
 - b. When the original municipal array was created, it was done in mind with growth in the future but that option was never pursued. It currently generates about ¼ of the power used by the municipal buildings.
 - c. Several minor edits were made to the request for quote.
 - d. Jeff will send out the request for quote to Dana Nute this week.
6. Window Dressers report
 - a. This topic was first discussed in 2023-05-08 meeting. This is a non-profit organization that helps communities create custom built interior storm windows. More details available in previous minutes.
 - b. Ruth could not be here today but Jeff talked to her before this meeting. She found out that they will pre-cut all of the materials for us (after we send in measurements) and the event itself is assembling the pieces. They have three events scheduled in the Fall in NH.
7. Green Your Fleet @ NH Motor Speedway (NHMS) on June 9, 2023
 - a. <https://www.granitestatecleancities.nh.gov/happening/green-fleet.htm>
 - b. Event at NHMS with workshops and demonstrations for municipalities on alternative fuel and electric vehicles.
 - c. They are comping our committee a ticket. Jeff and Beth are planning to attend.
 - d. Canterbury currently has several police cars (mostly hybrids), several fire and highway vehicles (diesel), and transfer station trucks (diesel).
8. Electric Vehicle (EV) Petting Zoo
 - a. This was a successful event last year and so we will be hosting it again. This time would like to include e-bikes, other power tools (chainsaws, lawnmowers, tractors), and the first used NH EV dealer ([Green Wave](#)).
 - b. September 6th or August 30th tentative. Need date finalized within next week so we can get it in the newsletter.
 - c. Beth will set date and begin planning.
9. Community Power rollout update
 - a. June is first month that first group has been enrolled. This group is enrolled on the date of their meter read in June, but they won't see it until the first bill in July.
 - b. We have the data from May for who in Canterbury opted in/out/up, only 2% (14 of 896) opted out. Every six months with the rate change, people will be able to opt in/out/up.

- c. There is still a problem with net metering households. It is on the backburner for CPCNH but will be addressed in the coming months.
- 10. [NH Municipal Association](#) (NHMA)
 - a. NHMA is a group that helps towns find money in federal funds. This covers all of the acts discussed in 2023-05-08 meeting. Canterbury is part of NHMA, but we don't know if anyone in town is already involved.
 - b. There is a document they provide that has more details. Kent and Jeff will distribute this to the committee for review. We will consider if engaging with NHMA would be helpful.
- 11. Community solar farms presentation
 - a. Beth is offering to do a presentation about building solar farms (5-25 acres, 1-5 megawatts)
 - b. Audience is EC, Planing Board, CCPC, BoS, etc.
 - c. Beth will schedule this and coordinate with the other boards.
- 12. Adjournment
 - a. Time: 8:40

Action Items:

- 1. **Jeff** will send out RBG request for quote.
- 2. **Beth** will set date for EV Petting Zoo and begin planning.
- 3. **Jeff** will be forwarding out various documents to the group (Kearsarge, NHMA, Window Dressers).
- 4. **Beth** will schedule community solar presentation.

Next Meeting: 2023 June 26, 7:00 PM, Elkins Library

Minutes submitted by Kathleen McKay, Secretary