

Energy Committee Meeting

November 7, 2022

Members present: Howard Moffett, Fred Portnoy, Jeff Beltramo, Claudia Leidinger, Sandy Hodsdon, Beth McGwinn and Ruth Heath as alternate. Kent Ruesswick was the selectboard representative. John Schneider attended as a member of the CCPC. The meeting began at 7:03 PM in the Meeting House.

Our agenda included:

1. Approval of the previous meeting minutes
2. Additional work on .Budget for 2023
3. Community power Update
4. Solar update for town buildings-Beth
5. Report from LES Conference attendees

Minutes were approved by unanimous vote after changing solar RFP to lighting RFP.

Budget items included:

- \$250 for members of the committee to attend annual LES convention
- \$250 for programs
- \$100 for miscellaneous items including Newsletter donation
- \$750 for a secretary

There were questions about the need for funds to cover Community Power (CCPC) for publicity and prelaunch activities. An additional \$150 was added to cover undetermined prelaunch costs. The revised budget for \$1,500. was approved.

Howard said the launch date for CCPNH will mostly likely be fall of 2023 or spring of 2024. Any costs associated with the launch will be covered by electric rates when CCPC is up and running.

A beginning draft of CCPC public aggregation plan is due December 12. There are 2 critical parts to fill in. Beth will be drafting an overview of Canterbury's existing master plan and what policies are in place.

The CCPC will share the drafts with the Planning Board and Energy Committee for comments and possible revisions. There will need to be 2 public hearings in town, a meeting with the Selectboard, submission to the PUC and working with the 3 electric utilities that serve Canterbury.

Howard is also planning a digital/hard copy survey for residents. Some options include time of use rates and renewable power. A CCPC subcommittee is drafting a master plan to present to planning board Nov15th. These documents will determine how people choose their energy options.

Unitil is looking at a 160% increase in rates this December. CCPC will not halve this number but might be able to reduce kWh prices by 2-3 cents. With combined purchasing power, all the towns which are interested in community power will be the biggest energy purchasing block in NH. This should make it possible to negotiate for the lowest rates and more renewable sources.

Beth reported on solar at the municipal building. An investor is no longer required due to the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The Town is eligible for a 30% credit under the IRA. Electric

rates are going up but with supply chain issues and increased demand would we generate enough power to offset costs? Eric is dubious about group net metering at the Sam Lake and Municipal buildings. Perhaps individual buildings would do best with their own solar arrays. The Library might be grandfathered for one for one net metering. There is an issue with Library inverter and the Municipal Building has an inverter issues. Beth also reminded us of her conflict of interest with Revision Energy.

John Schneider remarked that we should reach out to the Municipal Association of which Canterbury is a member. The Association might be able to help us with a plan for switching to renewable energy in town buildings. The Selectboard also needs to be apprised of any plans. Last year's work with the fans in the MB had an already approved budget but we need to go to the Selectboard to work with changing lighting in MB to LEDs or planning on solar arrays or rooftop solar. We need to go to multiple people to get ideas about costs. Jeff will go to the Selectboard meeting to ask about funding for energy efficiencies. The tax incentives can be returned directly to the town through the Inflation Reduction Act.

Ruth will email a link to the LES conference presentations which are going to be available on YouTube.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45. Our next meeting will be December 5th.

Respectfully submitted, by Claudia Leidinger, Secretary.

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