

Energy Committee Meeting

April 3, 2023

Members present: Fred Portnoy, Jeff Beltramo, Claudia Leidinger, Beth McGwinn, and Kent Ruesswick. Ruth Heath and Howard Moffett came later. The meeting began at 7:04PM in the Library Meeting room.

Our agenda included:

1. Community Power Update
 2. Energy Education for the town
 3. Inflation Reduction Act state programs
 4. SB68 letter
 5. Committee member replacement for Sandy
 6. Hiring a secretary since our budget passed
 7. Conferences attended by members.
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1. In Howard's absence, Kent gave us a Canterbury Community Power Committee (CCPC). The Selectboard approved the rate for CCPC of \$.158 per kW. This is the Granite basic rate. Letters will be mailed to all electric users in Canterbury so they can opt in at the basic rate, opt up with a higher percentage of renewable power or opt out. Canterbury may be launching in a second wave with Portsmouth. The Coalition's Risk Management Team will work to get a rate for Canterbury and Portsmouth. It was asked if the rates could be applied to the town buildings. No one knew the answer. The town has a contract with Constellation Energy.
 2. Jeff has sent a letter signed by the committee in favor of SB68, which would allow for important net metering changes for NH.
 3. Kent cleared up a misunderstanding from the Town Meeting. The Meeting House will have a heat pump installed. Beth suggested a sign by the thermostat requesting no one turn the heat pump down too low to try and conserve energy. It is better for energy usage to keep it at one temperature. The state of insulation at the Meeting House was questioned. The Energy Committee had a Level 1 evaluation by RBG last year, and the Meeting House was found to be lacking in insulation/drafty.
 4. We have a \$750 budget for hiring a new secretary. Kathleen McKay, a former committee member was suggested as a possibility. We also need a new committee member and Pam Smarling was suggested. Anyone with experience in energy-related fields would also be a plus. Perhaps a note in the Town email or newsletter asking for volunteers would be appropriate.
 5. Howard then added more to CCPC update. There will be a 4-page letter sent to all residents by the last week of April. The letter will cover the three ways to register for CCPC. An additional information meeting will be held to cover residents' questions. We may launch in June and the \$.158 per kW rate will last until July when Community Power Coalition of NH (CPCNH) goes out and purchases more power.
 6. Fred and Beth attended a Future of Electric Utilities meeting. Fred felt that Eversource and Unitil came across as investor oriented while Liberty and the Coop were customer oriented. The possibility of a smart grid to provide Internet to rural areas was being investigated by Plymouth State University. Both green and black hydrogen are being used in NH. Groveton has a former paper plant producing green hydrogen gas in small amounts.
 7. There is a Climate Solutions web event on April 24 on newhampshirenetwork.org.

Our next meeting will be May1 at 7:00 in the Meeting Room.

Respectfully submitted, by Claudia Leidinger, Secretary.