

April 20, 2023

Energy Committee April 20, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Barrington, N.H. Town Hall

In attendance: Paul Panish, Rob Gibson, Dan Federico, Jack Bingham, Doug Bogen, Leah Harrington.

Absent: Alyssa Papineau.

Others present- Jim Anderson

Meeting Start time: 7:00 o'clock p.m.

1. Paul Panish called the meeting to order.
2. The group approved the meeting minutes for 3/16 and 4/6.
3. The group discussed the fact that the warrant article regarding energy was not approved and that it would reassess its wording for next year's vote.
4. The Community Power presentation to the select board has been rescheduled to May 22d.
5. Questions and presentation to the department heads is scheduled for 5/17 – the energy use survey and discussion questions were reviewed by the group.
 - a. Ideas presented: That the building code include new housing units to be wired for electric vehicle charging; that a town policy be developed to replace existing equipment in need of replacement with state of the art energy efficient equipment.
 - b. Discussion about Community Power.
6. The group discussed the need to add new members to the committee.
7. The need to recommend a representative to the Community Power Coalition was discussed.
8. Paul volunteered to attend this weeks CPCNH board meeting and report back.
9. The group agreed it should look at sample aggregation plans and begin discussing our aggregation plan outline.
10. Web site updates:

- a. If members have items to include in the website they should be sent to Leah.
 - b. News articles can be added – such as a recent Valley News article that was recommended.
 - c. The group discussed energy related tax rebates.
11. Community Power Reserves: The group discussed that CPCNH sets aside joint reserves that are not for direct access by communities but do serve all communities by protecting against a spike in rate costs, and other financial needs in order to maintain stable rates.
- a. In the industry every third-party provider has reserves.
 - b. Excess reserves are sent back to towns through cost sharing.
 - c. Towns can choose to add to rates (adders) to set aside its own reserves for energy related projects such as solar power in the future.
12. Jim Anderson will review the areas of available grants from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block grant program (EECBG) administered by the U.S. Department of Energy/N.H. Department of Energy.
13. The Committee would offer support in the grant writing process.
14. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.