

June 15, 2023

Energy Committee June 15, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Barrington, N.H. Town Hall

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

Absent: Alyssa Papineau, Rob Gibson.

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 6/1/23.
3. The group agreed that the next meeting date would be July 6 and that the July 20th meeting will be cancelled.
4. The Select Board approved Cindy Hoisington as an alternate member of the energy committee.
5. Paul reported that federal Inflation Reduction Act funding may be available for replacement of the generator at the Public Safety building in conjunction with solar panel and storage installation. Consultation with the department chiefs and with Jim Anderson is needed.
6. The Select board approved the establishment of an energy aggregation committee and approved joining the joint powers agreement of N.H. Community Power, pending approval by legal counsel. Paul was appointed representative to N.H. Community Power and Dan was appointed as the alternate.
7. Web updates: Paul requested that a link be made to the new Community Power. Gov. webpage that contains a frequently asked question page.
8. The net metering solicitations from Kearsarge Energy and Green Street energy were postponed until the issue can be discussed with a representative from the Community Power N.H. coalition.
9. Colonial Power company of Massachusetts sent the Committee a request to attend a meeting to discuss becoming the Town's power supplier. This was discussed and it was determined that the Town would continue the process of joining N.H. Community Power coalition.

10. Paul gave an update as to the ISO New England Consumer group webinar: ISO N.E. continues to favor fossil fuel sources over non fossil fuel sources of power. It is involved in off- shore wind- mostly in the area of Cape Cod and south. ISO NE is piloting long term battery storage. Overall, the presentation was somewhat disappointing.
11. Doug reported on the Off – Shore wind webinar: That most projects were south of Cape Cod, and several would be going online soon. The webinar members rebutted criticism from oil and fishing lobbies about threats to ocean life from wind turbines including the threat to whales. No discussion of Gulf of Maine wind mapping that is taking place or the selling of licenses. New Hampshire has not done procurement (Laws that require utilities to purchase a certain amount of renewable energy). Maine is looking at tethered turbines 50 miles offshore. SB 54 sets up possible procurement (it has passed the N.H. House and Senate) which leaves it up to utilities to procure non fossil fuel power suppliers. There is another bill that would train wind farm workers at Community Colleges.
12. Paul discussed the various documents available on CPCNH google drive.
13. The group discussed the formation of an energy aggregation sub-committee.
14. Jack will reach out to Julia Dundorf about joining the committee or assisting.
15. The group discussed the various requirements for the drafting of the aggregation plan which needs to be approved by the N.H. Public Utilities Commission. The group agreed to work collaboratively in order to put together a draft aggregation plan.
16. Paul suggested the committee should establish protocols and procedures for the subcommittee, which he will discuss with Conner MacIver.
17. The Rec/Library building energy audit by Dana Nute will take place on June 20th.
18. Paul discussed a study pertaining to reaching net zero carbon emission done by the Nature Conservancy. The study focuses on how to use resources in the least damaging ways, with conservation in mind. He said some training was needed in how to access the data presented on the web site.
19. Leah volunteered starting in July to take over the minute keeper role.
20. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

