

May 4, 2023

Energy Committee May 4, 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 4/20/23.
3. Web site updates:
 - a. Added: Secure grant funding.
 - b. The language of the proposed warrant article for the energy capital reserve was revised.
 - c. A link was added to announce the launch of Community Power in certain communities in N.H.
 - d. "Contact Us" link will be used for energy questions and replies will be done by Connor – one question one reply.
 - e. News articles can be added – such as a recent Valley News article that was recommended.
4. There is a Right to Know Law (RSA 91A) seminar provided by the Town of Barrington on May 10th at 5:30 pm at the Town Hall – all are welcome to register.
5. The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block grants to small communities was discussed and tabled due to the June 5th deadline for proposals.
 - a. Many projects that reduce carbon emissions and/or increase energy efficiency are allowed.
 - b. Barrington is an eligible town.
 - c. Two or more municipalities and a non-profit are encouraged to team together.
 - d. 10-20 grants of 200K to 500k will be issued by the Federal Dept. of Energy.
 - e. The group will look into project ideas and plan for the next round of funding.
6. Paul attended the Community Power Coalition board meeting:

- a. He reports that Durham has elected to wait for the other town roll outs before going online with Community Power, taking a conservative approach.
 - b. Thirty-Three towns are now coalition members.
 - c. Rollinsford made a presentation about its hydro-electric power station.
 - d. There is a new CEO of Community Power who was a former executive at the N.H. Electric Co-op.
 - e. 20 board members were elected.
 - f. A plan was developed about how the board will communicate with those towns that are not current board members but are members of Community Power.
 - g. All members can join committees.
 - h. A project committee is going to be created.
 - i. The Eversource billing issue was discussed at the meeting – Eversource has attempted to delay roll out due to its need for upgrading billing practices – which is not a PUC requirement, and something that Community Power objected to and is working to avoid.
 - j. Nashua has been partially (8000 residents) enrolled and online.
7. Dan and Paul will start reviewing aggregation plans – Paul pointed out that Community Power has developed a new template.
8. Paul noted that an expert has recommended against removal of the Richardson Dam in Barrington. The group discussed the feasibility of replacing the dam with a small hydro power source dam. The feasibility was questioned, but Paul and Jack will review the studies and report.
9. Doug shared that Clean Energy NH did a Community Power panel which is available on line. Keene, New Boston, and Lee have separately negotiated with third party power suppliers, independent of the coalition and obtained a .13 c. per KWH rate. 16 cents for 100 % renewable.
 - a. There are also grant links on this site.
10. The Barrington Town department head meeting will be on 5/17/23.
11. Jack reported that the Town of Deerfield may be interested in establishing a solar array, and contingent upon SB 68 passing – Town cooperation with Barrington may be possible.
12. The energy survey was discussed and finalized and will try to circulate to department heads as soon as possible.
13. The Community Power Coalition has a new website with an enrollment section: Communitypower@n.h.gov.

14. Paul reported that the N.H. Electric Co-op's electric vehicle and battery charging station/pilot program in Plymouth is operational.
15. Doug reported that Jack Gale of FYI Barrington – a Facebook page – would like to do a write-up about the Energy Committee.
16. The Group discussed adding a potential candidate/ member, Cynthia Hoisington, to the energy committee in July.
17. The Selectboard Community Power presentation will be on May 22.
18. The meeting adjourned at at 8:20 pm