

February 2, 2023

Energy Committee February 2, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Barrington, N.H. Town Hall

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

Absent: Alyssa Papineau

Others present- Ken Grant

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

1. The group approved the minutes from the meeting on January 19, 2023.
2. Paul noted that the federal Inflation Reduction Act program would be valid for 10 years so there is not a rush to seek funding. The funding may be 'stacked' should the town seek multiple areas of funding in the future.
3. Jack discussed that the N.H. Dept. of Energy had 8 to 10 grant opportunities that he was investigating and would report back to the group on.
4. Paul discussed that the U.S. Whitehouse guidebook on clean energy was available as a good resource.
5. Jack reported that the REC/Library building audit estimate was \$4200.00 and with the Community Development Finance Authority grant in place paying 75 % potentially, the cost of the audit to the Town would be \$1050.00.
6. The group discussed that the audit should be completed in the winter months if possible and Jack would make a call to start processing the CDFA grant and inform Connor MacIver and the Board of Selectmen.
7. Paul suggested that we should obtain sample reports from the auditor Dana Nute.
8. Doug reported that he has arranged for Rachel Eades of Revision Energy to speak to the group about solar power on February 16 at the next meeting. Paul requests that the group provide him with questions for Ms. Eades.
9. Paul reviewed with the group the presentation to go along with the Warrant article regarding funding for town energy related initiatives such as energy audits.
10. Leah shared her work on the proposed energy website to be added to the town website:
  - a. Mission statement
  - b. Statement of Goals: 10,000 dollar reserve fund, municipal energy audits, community power coalition.
  - c. Video links
  - d. Energy Savings and assistance links
  - e. Tax Credit links
  - f. A link to Dsireusa.org
  - g. Frequently asked questions
  - h. Rob suggested that the Board of Selectmen should be notified when the web site is live.

- i. Leah to meet either in person or on line with town employee, Tiffany, to begin the process of setting up the website.
- 11. Jack will report at the next meeting on the rate schedule for net metering issue.
- 12. Paul reported that the CPC presentations he attended were general in nature. That CPC has a committee dedicated to risk mitigation. The complete service bundle includes customer support, billing, and interchange. Behind the meter/ net meter are open questions that remain to review in the coming weeks. Towns may choose to set their own rates in consultation with CPC. Notice to customers is required. Business customers may be included in the coalition services. All delivery of energy functions remains the same.
- 13. Paul requested members send him content to be included in the Town's annual report documentation regarding the energy committee.
- 14. Paul is preparing the community power presentation to the Select Board for, most likely, early March, after the election when a new Board will convene. The group discussed Paul's draft of the presentation.
- 15. Rob suggested that we use financial savings information by other towns to show the potential benefits of joining the coalition.
- 16. There was a discussion that costs of participation in the coalition are recovered through setting of rates.
- 17. The group discussed the probability that it would recommend to the Select Board that it appoint either a separate committee or a sub committee of the energy committee to be the power aggregation committee focused on the process of joining the CPC and the aggregation process.
- 18. Dan will reach out to potential aggregation committee members from the town as discussed by the group.
- 19. Rob asked if there was a practical deadline during a given year for joining the coalition due to the timing of power purchases.
- 20. The group discussed that it may be one to two years away from Barrington implementing the power aggregation plan in light of the process of startup.
- 21. Doug discussed the N.H. Coalition for Community Media and the availability of public access broadcasts for future energy related programming and projects.

Meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.