

March 3, 2023

Energy Committee March 2, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Barrington, N.H. Town Hall

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

Absent: Alyssa Papineau, Rob Gibson

Others present- None

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

1. The group approved the minutes from the meeting on February 2, 2023.
2. Jack reported that the Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) application for funding the REC/Library building energy audit is complete, and pending approval from Connor MacIver, the money will be available. The grant would go toward paying most of the \$4200.00 estimated energy audit cost of the Rec/Library building leaving a cost to the Town of approximately \$1050.
3. Paul reported that Durham will not be in the first round of Community Power involved communities, choosing to delay implementation of the power plan for Durham.
4. Paul reviewed the Community Power Forum presentation that took place on February 23d:
  - a. The net metering issue has yet to be determined by the coalition and net metering will not be accounted for initially but will be eventually. Those with solar arrays who use net metering are likely to choose to opt out.
  - b. Rate plans are likely to be released by Community Power Coalition soon which Paul plans to track and share.
  - c. The coalition is working toward hiring consultants and officers including a CEO.
5. Paul and Dan will work on doing outreach to the department heads of the Town in order to review any energy related issues and to discuss the Community Power Coalition.
6. The group discussed looking into the results of the Master Plan survey that was conducted by that committee.
7. The group discussed working in the near future on a community power and /or energy committee basic brochure to distribute.
8. Paul led the group in a discussion and revision of the draft presentation of Community Power intended to be shared with the Select Board on March 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - a. Jack and Leah offered to provide a 5 point summary to the Community Power presentation.
  - b. Paul asked Dan to review the Community Power portfolio on risk management and report back.
9. The group discussed the website page for the Energy Committee that is being managed by Leah.

- a. The group discussed moving community power content to a separate linked page.
  - b. The group discussed how to handle frequently asked questions which will be through a separate email address.
  - c. News articles will have a link or separate menu item.
- 10. Rachel Eades of Revision Energy will speak to the group about solar power on March 16<sup>th</sup>, and the group discussed questions that were compiled by Paul from others' suggestions and his own.
  - a. Some areas of Town for solar array discussed included: Transfer station, Safety building, Early learning center, Library.
  - b. Nimby (not in my backyard) issues, if any, will be discussed by Revision Energy.
  - c. It was suggested that the website 'PVWATTS' provides a virtual solar array algorithm that can assist with planning a solar array.
- 11. Paul discussed a Massachusetts based electric school bus subscription program that may be available to municipalities, which he learned about through the 'voltz' podcast.
- 12. Doug discussed the N.H. Coalition for Community Media and the availability of public access broadcasts for future energy related programming and projects via local cable public access channel 26, which the group thought was not within the purview of the energy committee to address given the dormant state of public access in Barrington and the popularity of internet streaming.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.