

TOWN OF HOPKINTON – ENERGY COMMITTEE

APPROVED PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY JUNE 8, 2023

- I. **Call to order**
 - a. The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM by Chair Ken Traum
 - b. Members present: Ken Traum, Sarah Hoffman, Jack Ruderman, Stephen Eckberg, Cleve Kapala, Mark Zankel, Lynn Durand.
- II. **Approval of Minutes**
 - a. The minutes from the May 11, 2023 meeting were approved 6 in favor/ 0 against/ 1 abstention
- III. **Business items**
 - a. **2023 NH Energy Expo**
 - i. The members had received an attachment with information about the NH Energy Expo.
 - ii. Date and place To Be Determined
 - iii. It was determined by General Consensus that the Hopkinton Energy Committee would not commit time and energy to the NH Energy Expo in 2023 as we feel that we have a full commitment to Energy Aggregation Committee project (see below).
 - b. **Contoocook Hydro Dam**
 - i. Ken Traum did not have any updates at this time.
 - ii. Neal and Ken are putting together proposed agreements with the current Lessee (Laurie Bart).
 - iii. This consists of a PILOT agreement and a lease agreement
 - iv. These proposed agreements will be presented to the Select Board; not to the Hopkinton Energy Committee
 - c. **Energy Aggregation project**
 - i. Community Power Coalition and Standard Power are the two vendors that we need to decide between
 - ii. Chair Ken Traum suggested that per Legislation the Select Board needs to form an “Electrical Aggregation Committee”
 - iii. MOTION by Jack Ruderman, second by Mark Zankel: *“The Energy Committee recommends that the Hopkinton Select Board establish an Energy Aggregation Committee as a means to bring lower cost electricity and more renewable electrical opportunities to the residents and the businesses of Hopkinton.”* Vote 7 in favor; 0 against.
Ken will bring this motion to the next Select Board meeting.
 - iv. Presentation of the interviews of NH towns using two community power options. .
 - a. Ken Traum presented that Canterbury is using the NH CPC. They have overall very positive feedback, but stated that they

had put in a lot of work in the project. They are optimistic that they will have a reserve fund that they can access after 3 years.

Wilton chose Standard Power and are overall happy with their decision as well and also noted that their energy committee had to do more work than they had anticipated. Ken stated that after listening to the two presentations, that he feels that he would prefer the NH CPC.

- b. Sarah Hoffman interviewed a Keene representative. Keene choose Standard Power. Keene started their process prior to the existence of the NH CPC. They got a very good price (\$0.117/KWH) (about \$0.08 < Eversource). They like the rate. They pooled with 3 other towns to obtain that optimal rate. A positive is that they have “a good relationship with Eversource.”

Sarah also spoke to a representative from Rye. Rye went with the NH CPC and are also very happy with NH CPC. Also lots of work involved. They did not reveal their actual rate but stated that it is < Eversource.

Sarah stated that after discussion with the two towns she does not have a preference of Standard Power vs. NH CPC.

- c. Cleve Kapala interviewed Warner who went with the NH CPC. They also are very positive about NH CPC. They have actually not gone on-line yet for energy from NH CPC.
- d. Jack Ruderman interviewed a representative from Swansey who chose Standard Power. They just went on line June 11, 2023. They are very happy with their choice.

Jack also spoke to a representative from Enfield. Enfield went with the NH CPC and was very positive about their choice as well.

- e. Stephen Eckberg interviewed Walpole who chose the NH CPC and also are very happy about their choice. They note increased electrical rate but note that this will go back to the town in the form of the reserve. He also interviewed Jaffrey who went with Standard Power, are very happy with their choice and decided a lot based on the better rate.

- f. Mark Zankel interviewed Marlboro who went with Standard Power and Pembroke who went with NH CPCP. Both are very happy with their choice.

- g. It was suggested by Mark Zankel that a recommendation should go to the Select Board by August; but Ken Traum felt that we may not be ready by then and suggested September.

- h. It was suggested that we make a more formal presentation to the Select Board about the Energy Aggregation Committee, it's purpose and function and final goals.

- i. The overall consensus from the interviews is that the towns are unanimously pleased with their choices.
 - j. The next steps would be:
 - i. Present the motion for the formation of the Energy Aggregation Committee to the Select Board
 - ii. The Select Board create the committee
 - iii. The committee proceed with the decision as to our chosen energy partner and present that to the Select Board and determine how to handle next steps.
 - iv. During this time, the Hopkinton Energy Committee will cease meeting as the primary function will be with the Energy Aggregation Committee.
 - d. Kast Hill Gravel Pit and town solar arrays
 - i. Nothing new
 - ii. Sarah Hoffman will check on the potential of using the Houston Barn as a site for a solar array
 - iii. Mark Zankel will reach out to the Hopkinton Schools to see if we can negotiate as a common block.
 - e. As an FYI: States Clean Energy has presented to the Select Board. If the project were to be completed, it would mean additional property tax revenues to the Town as well as potentially some funding for municipal energy projects.
- IV. Public comment: none
- V. Other: Next meeting date July 13, 2023 at 5:30 PM at the Town Hall
- VI. Adjournment: motion to adjourn, approved 7-0, at 7:10 PM