



Town of Hopkinton

Energy Committee

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HOPKINTON ENERGY COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES Wednesday, November 30, 2022 DRAFT

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Traum called this meeting of the Hopkinton Energy Committee to order at 5:33 p.m. on Wednesday, November 30, 2022, in the conference room in the Hopkinton Town Hall.

Members Present: Lynn Durand, Stephen Eckberg, Sarah Hoffman, Cleveland Kapala, Jack Ruderman, Mark Zankel, and Ken Traum

Member Absent: None

Staff Present: Neal Cass-Town Administrator

Public Present: Bonnie Christie

INTRODUCTIONS

All present introduced themselves and gave their background.

All members were sworn in.

COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION

The committee reviewed the charge given by the Select Board. Mr. Traum noted that some items have a timeline associated with them and others do not. It was noted the importance of complying with NH RSA 91-A, the Right-to-Know law.

After a brief discussion Mr. Zankel moved to appoint Ken Traum as the committee chair and Steve Eckberg as the Vice Chair. Mr. Kapala seconded the motion.

VOTE: Voting in favor: Durand, Eckberg, Hoffman, Kapala, Ruderman, Zankel, and Traum; no votes against; Motion passed 7-0.

It was decided that the taking of the minutes will rotate between all the committee members. The order will be, Zankel, Kapala, Ruderman, Eckberg, Hoffman, and Du. d. Mr. Traum as chair will not take minutes.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL AREAS OF FOCUS

The Committee was updated with information on current projects/issues as follows:

- Solar arrays at the Transfer Station

- Mr. Traum reviewed the history of the project.
 - Currently Deer Meadow Solar (a company of Olivewood) is working on the interconnection agreement.
 - Quarterly reports are received.
 - A one-year extension option to the original agreement has been executed
- Solar array at the Wastewater Treatment Facility
 - The Town has received a grant to pay for 100% of the cost of installing a solar array at this location that will generate enough power to run the plant. This is a grant from NH DES.
- Kast Hill gravel pit solar array
 - The Town has been approached by BlueWave to build a solar array at the Kast Hill gravel pit. There is no firm commitment for this project at this time, but it is a priority to move this forward.
 - Mr. Zankel suggested that the committee do an inventory of all town-owned property to determine all potential sites for solar arrays.
- Community Power
 - The Town currently obtains power in conjunction with a municipal consortium that is managed by Standard Power. They have offered to help with Community Power.
 - Mr. Ruderman suggested the Committee meet with Julia Griffin, the former Town Manager in Hanover who is a director with Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire.
 - Community Power is where the Town becomes the aggregator for people in town to go out to bid for power. Users have the option of opting out if they don't want to take part.
 - A community does this to save money, and to have control over how its power is generated.
 - There are towns in NH that have adopted Community Power at Town Meeting.
- Contoocook Hydro Dam
 - The Town owns this property, and it is leased on a 40-year contract that expires in September 2023. They currently sell power to UNH.
 - Mr. Eckberg will gather more information on what other similar dams are doing.
 - Mr. Cass will research previous Town Meeting votes.
 - Mr. Zankel will check with DES to see if the dam is on the list for rural restoration.
- Efficiencies at Town buildings
 - There was a discussion of building energy audits. It was noted that given the funds available, it is a good time to do this. Also, some research will be done on group net metering.
- The Hopkinton School District has its own energy committee. This committee may want to coordinate with them on some items.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bonnie Christie commented that the work of this committee overlaps with the Conservation Commission and the Waste Reduction Committee. As a resident, her main concern is saving money. She stated that she is very disappointed that climate change was not on the agenda for this

meeting. She continued that curbside pickup for trash and recyclables should be looked at to save overall energy.

Mr. Traum noted that all the issues on the agenda are related to climate change.

OTHER

Mr. Zankel asked whether this committee should be looking at the Town's overall carbon footprint and asked if carbon neutrality should be a goal.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, December 21, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Eckberg moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Ruderman seconded the motion. All members voted in favor and the meeting was declared adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Neal Cass
Town Administrator