

**TOWN OF HOPKINTON
ENERGY COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2022
DRAFT**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Traum called this meeting of the Hopkinton Energy Committee to order at 5:32 PM on Wednesday, December 21, 2022.

Members present: Ken Traum, Jack Ruderman, Mark Zankel, Stephen Eckberg, Lynn Durand, Cleve Kapala

Members absent: Sarah Hoffman

Staff present: none

Public present: none

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Steve Eckberg suggested that under

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL AREAS OF FOCUS

Bullet point: Community Power

That we strike the line “but are still waiting for legislation to allow it to go into effect” since there are PUC rules that have gone into effect in this regard thus there are at present no legislative barriers.

It was agreed upon to simply strike that line with no replacement.

It was moved by Lynn Durand and seconded by Jack Ruderman to approve the minutes as amended.

Vote: 6-0

III. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION AND FOLLOW-UP

i. Kast Hill Gravel Pit

- a. The town of Hopkinton has approved in principle a Kast Hill Gravel Pit Solar Array with the intent to enter into an RFP process (and the Transfer Station) already
- b. Therefore the town selectmen can proceed without further town meeting approval.
- c. It maybe in the towns’ interest to negotiate not just the rent but also for power.
- d. It was suggested that we consider when negotiating the option to buy the hardware at the end of the lease agreement (similar to the Fire Station array).

ii. Potential other Town Properties for Solar Arrays

- a. Ken Traum stated that the only other potential would be 33 acres on Patch Road but that this location is not ideal so in reality there are no other potential locations for solar arrays in Hopkinton.

iii. Contoocook Hydro dam

- a. The present Lessee Lori Barg who has two other hydro dams that she leases in NH.
- b. The committee expressed surprise that the length of the lease is 40 years (the lease expires 2023)

- c. This is a ~250 KWatt, 2 generators of 136 kWatt; so it is small enough to be exempt from many regulations
- d. The dam gets inspected regularly by the DES Dam Bureau.
- e. The dam is considered a “Low Hazard” dam due to the fact that there would be minimal damage if the dam would wash out.
- f. Note (on page 7 of lease) that at the end of the lease, all equipment goes to the town.
- g. We are unsure how much revenue the dam brings in / year.
- h. We question if the 5% of revenue rental price on the lease is still appropriate or should we be negotiating for a higher percentage
- i. **Action point:** Steve Eckberg will approach Laurie Berg as to whether she is interested in renewing the lease and what parameters for the lease she would suggest.
- j. **Suggested action point:** the Energy Committee should look into lease/ operator options other than/ in addition to Laurie Berg
- k. We would likely not be able to negotiate above lease arrangements prior to the end of this lease term. Therefore, it was suggested that we negotiate a 364 day lease extension using the same terms as present (since a lease < 1 year does not need to be approved at a town meeting).
- l. The committee has already affirmed that the dam is not on a list for planned end of useful life destruction
- m. **Action point:** we will ask for the annual report that would give the annual amount of the income that is received from our 5% commission.
- n. **Action point:** Mark Zankel will ask Bob King for examples of other hydrodam lease agreements.
- iv. Eversource Municipal Energy Efficiency Program for Town Facilities
 - a. Steve Eckberg received an email which he will share with the committee, from Mark Toussant, representative for Eversource, regarding funding opportunities from NH Saves.
 - b. There are enclosed in the email resources that the town can use e.g. free lighting and refrigeration audits.
 - c. Apparently Eversource can provide financing for portions of some projects
 - d. **Action point:** Ken Traum will ask Neal Cass which buildings Neal would recommend to prioritize for said audits.
 - e. The town buildings with the maximum electrical use are, in order:
 - 1. Transfer station
 - 2. Department of Public Works
 - 3. Library
 - 4. Slusser Center
 - f. We will be looking into the cost of solar to help to defray electrical costs at these buildings
 - g. We will look into why the Transfer Station would be #1 electrical use building
 - h. There was discussion as to whether the orientation and configuration of the Department of Public Works building would be amenable to solar arrays on the roof.
- v. Community Power – NHPUC Docket DE 22-065 Walpole Approval – Warner Community Power
 - a. There is not time now to get a proposal in to the March 2023 Town meeting

- b. Suggestion that we start now to investigate this for a later time frame
 - c. It was noted that there are some Town Community Power programs in NH that are set to start in 2023
 - d. Suggestion that we bring a speaker to our February 2023 meeting to present to us about Community Power
- IV. CARBON NEUTRALITY GOAL/STATEMENT
 - 1. The Town does not have such a statement now
 - 2. Action point: Mark Zankel will work on this
- V. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public present
- VI. OTHER
 - 1. Next meeting Thursday January 12, 2023 at 5:30 PM at the Town Hall
- VII. ADJOURNMENT
 - 1. A motion to adjourn was made at 6:43 PM by Cleveland Kapala and seconded by Jack Ruderman and approved unanimously

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Durand
Committee member