

**TOWN OF HOPKINTON  
ENERGY COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2023  
FINALIZED**

**I I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Traum called this meeting of the Hopkinton Energy Committee to order at 5:36 PM on Wednesday, January 18, 2023.

Members present: Ken Traum, Jack Ruderman, Stephen Eckberg, Lynn Durand, Cleve Kapala, Sarah Hoffman

Member absent: Mark Zankel

Staff present: none

Public present: none

**I II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes from 12/21/22 were discussed. Discussion resolved issues to reflect accuracy and readability. Comments corrected the identification of the lessee of the hydro facility and the identification of the Department of Environmental Services and other issues. A motion was made by Jack Ruderman and seconded by Steve Eckberg to approve the amended minutes, 6-0.

The abbreviated minutes from a meeting of January 11 (adjourned without major business due to lack of access to Town Hall) were discussed briefly and unanimously approved, 6-0 following a Motion by Sarah Hoffman and seconded by Stephen Eckberg.

**I III. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION AND FOLLOW-UP**

II The draft of the report for inclusion in the Hopkinton Annual Report on the new organization of the Energy Committee was discussed and revisions made for clarity and readability. Changes were made in the report to reflect better understanding of energy efficiency and development issues, areas to investigate and evaluate, implementation of energy efficiency at town owned buildings and property, and community power aggregation. A motion was made by Steve Eckberg to accept the changes and was seconded by Sarah Hoffman and passed 6-0.

III The town of Hopkinton's proposed Kast Hill Gravel Pit solar array was discussed in the context of potentially seeking an RFP to confirm and validate a developer with enhanced data and possible proposals. Discussion ensued regarding additional sources including knowledgeable people and consultations that could lead to the development of an RFP on an accelerated timetable. Ken Traum indicated he would consult further with Neal Cass regarding the proposed RFP development and process. And Jack Ruderman will reach out to ReVision Energy to see if they have a sample RFP for a project similar to Kast Hill.

IV The Contoocook Hydro lease agreement and its pending expiration was discussed. Ken Traum provided some history on the 40 year lease the Town entered into in 1983, and shared some information that Mark Zankel had learned about municipally owned small hydros. Steve Eckberg has contacted Lori Barg, the current lessee, and is intending to set up a meeting for further discussion. Ms. Barg has indicated that she is interested in renewal of the lease and looks forward to further contact and discussion. Various strategies were discussed relative to the termination

of the existing lease later in 2023; options regarding its extension; the necessity of a better understanding and documentation of reporting of the recent gross revenues of the project; the more complete knowledge of how revenues from Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) apply to the project, and leave open the possibility that the Town may want right of first refusal to purchase the generation from the project. It was reported the project may generate approximately 1.1 million kwh annually, which may equate roughly to a 50% capacity factor. Although there is no immediate urgency for a meeting with Ms. Barg, Steve Eckberg will continue to manage the arrangement with her.

V. Ken Traum reported on the recent presentation by Resilient Buildings Group to Rotary and what role, if any, they might play regarding energy audits for some of the Town's building assets. A discussion followed regarding energy consumption and efficiency issues associated with the town ownerships. Mr. Traum will follow up with Resilient and through them with Eversource.

VI. Possible solar applications were discussed with respect to the Library, the Houston barn, the Slusser Center and the transfer station. Sarah Hoffman agreed to take the lead in outreach to the facilities, learn additional details and present information to a future meeting of the Energy Committee.

VII. A discussion of Community Power issues concluded the meeting with a reminder of the webinar scheduled for 2/23 as an important learning opportunity for committee members. Various knowledgeable individuals were discussed as potential invitees to future meetings, but the consensus was that we would begin to learn with a neutral party at the webinar and proceed from there.

VII. The next meeting was scheduled for 3/1/23 at 5:30 at Town Hall.

VIII. Steve Eckberg made a motion for adjournment at 6:56 pm, which was seconded and the committee adjourned by a vote of 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cleve Kapala

