

**TOWN OF HOPKINTON - ENERGY COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2023**

I. Call to Order

Mr. Traum called this meeting of the Hopkinton Energy Committee to order at 5:34 PM.

Members present: Ken Traum, Jack Ruderman, Stephen Eckberg, Lynn Durand, Mark Zankel, Cleve Kapala (arrived 6:28pm)

Member absent: Sarah Hoffman

Staff present: none

Member of Public present: Sharon Nall

II. Approval of Minutes

- The Committee reviewed draft minutes from the 1/18/23 meeting. Two changes were requested:
 - Section II - Approval of Minutes, 2nd line, delete 1st use of "identification".
 - Section III.iv – Change "to" to "a" in the sentence "and leave open the possibility that the Town may want to right of first refusal to purchase the generation from the project."
- Jack Ruderman motioned to approve amended minutes, Lynn Durand seconded.
- Minutes were approved 4-0-1, with Mark Zankel abstaining because he was not present at the 1/18/23 meeting.

III. Business Items

i. NH Saves Button Up Workshop

- Discussion about whether Energy Committee should be a co-sponsor with the Library.
- Members were supportive of being a co-sponsor.

ii. Transfer Station (Deer Meadow) Solar Array Update

- Developer has provided a written update to the town.

iii. Potential Future Collaboration with School's Energy Committee

- Ken has been in contact with Jim Rozycki (School facilities director), who is staff contact for the School Energy Committee
- Ken Traum to invite a member of the committee to a future meeting and to inquire if the committee would be interested in co-sponsoring the Button Up Workshop.

iv. Contoocook Hydro Dam

- Power Generation – the dam has produced an average of ~1 million kwh/yr for last 3 years. Existing lease calls for dam owner to pay the town 5% of gross revenues. Dam owner has calculated payment based on revenue from Eversource, but has not factored in revenue from sale of Renewable Energy Credits. Dam owner is a certified class IV and class I

renewable energy producer. In 2022, the dam owner earned \$21,546 in RECs. Steve Eckberg will draft an email to request the amount of REC revenue received annually on this dam. Ken Traum will determine who will send the email.

- Town Meeting – The Committee reviewed Article 15, which if passed would authorize the Select Board to develop a future lease for the hydro dam. Ken Traum will speak to the article and provide brief background.

v. Potential Solar Arrays at/near Town facilities

- Sarah Hoffman is working on this issue. Five sites are under consideration: library, Slusser Center, transfer station, police station, and highway garage. Sarah has reached out to three solar companies to explore options.
- Steve Eckberg asked if Houston Barn is under consideration? Not on the original list, but could be added. Committee seemed to think that location might be the most appropriate as it will have a new roof.
- The committee discussed the potential for group net metering of town facilities.

vi. Eversource Municipal Energy Efficiency Programs for Town facilities

- Ken Traum is doing outreach, no response yet. Other members and Sharon will reach out to any contacts they have.

vii. Kast Hill Gravel Pit: RFP ideas

- The Hopkinton Energy Committee will need to draft an RFP for lease of the land for a solar array. Jack Ruderman will follow up to get samples.

viii. Community Power

- Several Committee members attended a community power webinar February 23. There are different approaches available to Hopkinton including a cooperative governance model (e.g., NH Community Power Coalition), and a for-profit model (e.g., Standard Power).
- Next steps – Invite presentation from Standard Power. Ken Traum will reach out.

ix. Carbon Neutrality Goal/Statement

- Mark Zankel is researching what other communities have done – starting with Concord, Keene, Hanover, and Durham - and will provide a written update in advance of the next meeting. Those communities have established renewable energy goals and commitments, focused on achieving 100% renewable energy by 2050 with a quicker timeline (2030) for electricity and a longer timeline (2050) for heating/cooling and transportation.
- It was noted that if Hopkinton produces an energy action plan, it should include energy efficiency as a component.
- We should explore and include tracking and certification mechanisms.
- Can we more actively promote the NH Saves program for community residents. Potentially at Town Meeting? Committee members will inquire with Eversource to get flyers that could be distributed at Town Meeting and/or during Town elections.

IV. Public Comment

No additional public comment.

V. Next Meeting

March 22, 5:30pm

VI. Motion to Adjourn

Mark Zankel moves, Jack Ruderman seconds, all voted in favor.