

TOWN OF HOPKINTON – ENERGY COMMITTEE

DRAFT PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, December 12, 2023

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Cleve Kapala called the meeting of the Hopkinton Energy Committee to Order at 6:09

Members present: Ken Traum, Cleve Kapala, Sarah Hoffman, Lynn Durand

Members of the public present: Mark Zankel

Members absent - Stephen Eckberg, Jack Ruderman, Sharon Nall

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes was made by Ken Traum, seconded by Lynn Durand. Approved by members present.

III. Business Items

i. Review of Committee Charge

- Minor discussion occurred but full review will wait until Steve can be present - item will remain on the agenda for next meeting.

ii. Update on Solar Feasibility Projects.

- Ken informed the committee that the town had selected Revision Energy to build the solar array at the sewer treatment plant. The array will cover 90% of energy needs for the plant. Array should be completed by 2025.
- Ken relayed that the transfer station solar project has been optioned to the same company for another 2 years. The delay is due to problems with connecting to the grid. The company has paid 30,000\$ to continue the option.
- Sarah said that the other smaller solar projects throughout the town are not moving forward at this point because the Select Board was going to require RFPs.
- Kast Hill solar was discussed. Ken stated that there as a chance that Kast Hill was under a conservation easement. Mark has reviewed the interconnection capacity and felt it might limit size of the solar array at Kast Hill but that solar companies bidding on an RFP would do the research.
- Solar projects on hold until RFPs can be compiled.

iii. Update on coordination with School District

- Ken said that PUC/ DOE were updating regulations on wood pellet stoves. There is a potential grant available (? Applied for? – sorry notes unclear) for up to 5,000\$ towards installation of meters for the school wood pellet furnaces. Once metered then they would be eligible for RECs.
- No further discussions on school town energy coordination

IV. New Items:

i. Discussion of potential Clean Energy NH Involvement

- Cleve stated that 44 NH municipalities are members of Clean Energy NH and raised the question whether Hopkinton might want to join. Cleve discussed benefits with a Warner contact that is part of the group. Benefits include Legislative point of view/ understanding / input, networking, knowledgeable staff, and attendance at the annual conference. Municipal members are also valuable for Clean Energy NH.
- The annual fee for membership is 250\$
- Hopkinton is surrounded by towns that are members of Clean Energy NH.
- Cleve would be willing to pay on behalf of the town.
- Mark is a member. He feels the benefits include that Clean Energy NH advocates for good policy, they have resources - for example have staff that work with towns to create energy plans. They have technical support including help with compiling RFPs (they have sample RFPs on line).
- Committee decided to hold vote on whether to join Clean Energy NH until more committee members are present
- If Committee decides to join Ken feels the Select Board would be able to find the 250\$.

ii. Other Items

- Mark resigned from the Hopkinton Energy Committee
- Discussion on trying to have Alternates for the committee. Ken indicated that the Select Board would have to approve those new members. Decided to keep the committee at 7 current members.

Public Comments

- Mark made a public comment that Kast Hill was definitely NOT under a conservation easement.

V. Other

Next meeting date – 1/18/24 to start at 6:00 pm

VI. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Lynn and seconded by Ken. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 6:46 pm.