

TOWN OF HOPKINTON – ENERGY COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2023

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Mr. Traum called the meeting of the Hopkinton Energy Committee to Order at 5:31PM.

Members present: Ken Traum, Cleve Kapala, Stephen Eckberg, Jack Ruderman, Sarah Hoffman, Lynn Durand, Mark Zankel (arrived 5:35).

Staff present: none

Members of the public present: Sharon Nall, Norm Goupil, Jim Rozycki, Eric Waltman, Mike Stratton, Paul Martell

II. Approval of Minutes

The Committee reviewed draft minutes from the March 1, 2023 meeting. No changes or adjustments were proposed or made. Motion to approve minutes by Lynn Durand, seconded by Sarah Hoffman. Minutes were approved 5-0-2 with Cleve Kapala and Jack Ruderman abstaining.

III. Business Items.

A. Presentation by Bob Hayden and Ryan Polson of Standard Power & Good Energy about Community Power and their approach to providing services to New Hampshire communities. See attached PowerPoint slide presentation.

Highlights include: “If Hopkinton is interested in a Community Power program, Standard Power is prepared to help us by doing what we want – as much or as little assistance as we need.”

B. NHSaves Button Up workshop will be held at Hopkinton Town Library on Wed April 26 from 6:30 – 8:00PM. The Town Energy Committee is a co-sponsor. Help spread the word. Learn about NH energy efficiency programs, energy savings tips, rebates, and more.

C. Norm Goupil of School Board and School Energy Committee (SEC) and Jim Rozycki, School Facilities Manager presented about the current and ongoing efforts by SEC to gather information about all energy use of all school facilities including inventory of all energy consuming equipment such as boilers (heat), food service equipment, lighting, etc. All schools recently had a very comprehensive energy audit performed w/funding by Eversource. Audit reports will be forthcoming from the auditor from which the SEC hopes to learn more about energy saving opportunities and how to prioritize energy reduction activities to reduce energy expenses. SEC has met with Revision Energy (solar PV company) to evaluate options for rooftop solar at school buildings. Need to connect with Capital Improvement Plan to ensure any rooftop solar is in line with roof repairs, etc. Public question by Sharon Nall = is there focus on energy efficiency first before solar PV to reduce the “right size” of any PV system? Response by Jim R – yes definitely,

we're working with NHSaves to identify technologies eligible for rebate opportunities as we wait for the final energy audit reports and get ready for the projects. We're looking at energy in the big picture – all energy use areas in the schools. Discussion of Maple Street pellet boiler and possibility of qualifying for thermal RECs. Perhaps investigate the same possibility for other 2 pellet heat systems currently operating – the Public Works Garage and Fire Station.

- D. Update on Possible Solar PV installations on Town Buildings. Sarah Hoffman reported that she worked with Eric St. Pierre of Revision Energy (www.revisionenergy.com). Revision did initial “desk estimate” (did not do field visit to measure) using internet tools (google earth, public records etc) to produce initial estimates of potential project sizing, energy production, and cost. Individual project documents were provided for 4 buildings / sites Library, Slusser, Public Works, Transfer Station).
- E. Agenda item v – Eversource Energy Audits – Neal Cass will arrange with Eversource Representative.
- F. Agenda item vi – Kast Hill Gravel Pit RFP for solar project – Ken is still seeking examples of similar project RFP's or RFQ's.
- G. Carbon Neutrality Goal Statement. Mark Zankel has done initial research into statement of goals adopted by other NH towns including Keene, Hanover, Concord, Peterborough, Lyme. They all appear to be similar with initial goal of achieving use of 100% renewable electricity by a date – often 2030 – with subsequent goal of all other energy use being renewable by a later date – often 2050. Would be useful to include in any Statement developed that these goals are aspirational not a financial commitment. Mark read one of the adopted statements for the Committee to hear. Some samples of warrant articles from other towns are available but were not distributed to the Committee.

IV. Public Comment.

- A. Sharon Nall asked who will be working to put together RFPs for possible Solar Arrays? Would be up to the Select Board.

Jack Ruderman left the meeting at 7:45PM.

V. Non-Public Session. Cleve Kapala moved and Stephen Eckberg seconded to go into non-public session at 7:50PM. Vote was unanimous.

VI. Mark Zankel moved and Sarah Hoffman seconded to exit non-public session at 8:17 PM.. Vote unanimous.

VII. Other Business

- A. Mark Zankel informed the Committee that he had accepted a new job with Revision Energy as Director of Community Solar Farm Development. General discussion followed about potential or possible conflicts of interest. None perceived at this time. Committee thanked Mark and will be mindful of this moving forward.
- B. Next meeting April 13 5:30PM. Going forward Committee will meet 2nd Thursday each month.

VIII. Motion to Adjourn

- A. Stephen Eckberg moved and Lynn Durand seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:20PM. Vote unanimous.