

LEE COMMUNITY POWER COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 29, 2022

Present: Mary Woodward, Don Anderson, Erik Johnson, Louis Grondin, Katrin Kasper (BOS representative), Bill Humm and Carol Doering

ATTENDING ON ZOOM: Guest: Emily Manns (Standard Power)

- The minutes of the November 1, 2022, meeting were approved.
- Emily Manns reported that, to date, 104 Lee residents have responded to the Community Power Survey (results attached), with feedback from both home owners and renters representing a good range of ages, but none from business.
- Responses indicate the strongest single interest in lower rates (34%), followed closely by interest in increased renewables in the energy option mix at the same rate (28%).
- The three Renewable Energy Options totaled 53% of respondents. Compared to the responses in other towns, Lee is a very “energy aware” community and shows the strongest response to energy efficiency already taken by residents.
- Emily will leave the survey open for additional responses. The group also discussed options for using any possible profits generated by the initiative. Emily stressed it is always good to have some funds available to exploit federal and state matching funds.
- There was discussion of how we answer questions about the Community Power Coalition, of which Durham is a part, and a general conclusion was to indicate that the Consumer Power Initiative through Standard Power was a faster approach to save money and does not obligate town resources to get improvement.
- Mary asked if a 4th option of ensuring “no methane be used” was available?
- Emily indicated that they verify through Renewable Energy Certificates (REC’s) to the minimum required by the State (22.5%) up to the 100% option.
- A question was asked how they (Standard Power) “pressures the state, which seems to be one of the biggest roadblocks” and Emily indicated they do so by targeting specific legislative initiatives that can have impact such as Group Net Metering.
- She also indicated that her background itself was from the more general pressure organizations applied by varied Non-profit groups which they support but don’t target.
- Emily also indicated that any Lee Renewable Energy Projects can be sold as REC’s.
- This opened up discussion of using the VW monies and Stratford Regional Planning Commission (SRPC) Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) monies for placement of Electric Car Chargers. Also, Lou has contacted the Superintendent of Schools about placement of Solar on Mast Way School. Mary had contacted the Manager for Operations for Marketbasket in the past and will provide the name and number to do so again. Also, the use of Solar in Parking Lots as an additional recommendation to businesses. *Note: All of these recommendations should go to the Lee Energy Committee for evaluation and recommendation as that committee’s role is to promote Energy initiatives (Confusing at times as same people on both committees). Don volunteered to pull together a list of all these possibilities and their contacts for that committee. Please forward any information in this regard.*

- Lou Grondin requested Emily to give us a rundown on Community Power Committee action items moving forward.
- Emily is awaiting responses from Lee's Town Administrator on wording for the related warrant article and plan and for the active date for the Community Power Project Web page on the town site, at which point Emily will submit information related to the survey results, plan, and hearing dates for posting, with a target date of December 13.
- Dates for the two required public hearings will be the January 9, 2023, before the BOS meeting and the February 4, 2023, Town "Deliberative Session."
- A presentation similar to the one on 11-28-22 BOS meeting is recommended where the BOS recommended moving forward.
- Emily again stressed trying all outlets to get people aware. E-Crier, Flyers at the Library, Flyers at Businesses, Community Power Page for the town Web Site. She said she would provide a draft Flyer for posting.
- Next Meeting of the CP committee is scheduled for 12/13/22. (BOS meeting 12/12)