

# LEE COMMUNITY POWER COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

## January 10, 2023

**Attendance:** Don Anderson, Louis Grondin, Katrin Kasper (BOS representative), Barbara Wauchope, Carol Doering, Erik Johnson

**Guest:** Emily Mann (Standard Power)

Meeting starts at 10:30am

### OLD BUSINESS:

Community Power Plan action items and dates:

1. Information on Community Power on Town Web site ASAP (Completed 12-14-22)
2. Packet from Standard Power (Emily Mann) to town: ASAP (completed 12-14-22)
3. Update on the E-Crier: ASAP (completed 12-16-22)
4. Warrant article to be approved by the BOS: 1/9/23; discussed positively but not finalized at the BOS. Meeting had numerous technical difficulties noted below.
5. Next CPC / Energy Committee meeting: Tuesday 1/10/23 (see below)
  - a. Discussion and decision on the use and placement of flyers. Standard Power to provide a recommended flyer layout and the committee to work out how to get them printed after approval.
  - b. Discussion and decision on the design, use and distribution of Lawn signs. Emily to get the details from the Standard Power person working on it by the 1/17/23 mtg.
6. ADDED: Community Power Agreement sent to legal ASAP. (see below)
7. Next Public CPC meeting: Tuesday 1/17/22 10:30 AM (Lou & Don to be prepared)
8. Scheduled CPC / Energy Committee meeting: Tuesday 1/24/23? TBD
9. Third and final CPC Public Meeting: Saturday 2/4/23 (see below)
10. Vote on the Warrant Article on Town Voting Day of 3/14/23

### NEW BUSINESS 1-10-23

1. The initial discussion was based on the BOS meeting of 1/9/23 last night. The presenters (Lou in attendance and Emily Manns on the phone) confronted technical difficulties that were fixed with slides presented on a thumb drive and scheduling difficulties (started at 5:30 instead of 6). Lou and Don need to be prepared early to the meeting with alternatives for the second meeting in the PSB on the 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM to come off "more professional." The questions mentioned at the BOS meeting, as well as additional ones by the committee were as follows:
  - a. Can the town be without an Energy provider after the Plan is approved by the town if something happens to Good Energy, which Standard Power works with for the "electrons?" Good Power is working with 50 communities in MA, 8 in RI. They are one of 5 major power brokers (their NE staff alone is about the size of Standard Power). National Power Brokers are predictable and Standard Power is always evaluating about 5 of them and getting bids from 2-3 of the 5. Bob, the CEO will attend a future meeting to explain how all of this works together.

- b. If the worst-case scenario were to repeat (such as COVID in 2020), some past suppliers have reneged but never Good Energy, in fact they are honoring some rates in MA that are about \$0.10 per KWH while most are now in the high \$0.20's per KWH.
2. Other questions discussed we should anticipate either on 1/17 or at the deliberative session of 2/4 could be handled through the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) provided or with the two mailings all citizens will get from Standard Power prior to actual installation that will detail out the specific cost options to town citizens.
  - a. Mary's question of last meeting regarding Methane listed as an "REC for Renewable's" was discussed and concluded that it should be reworded from a "methane source" to "Bio-gas from landfills."
  - b. A question to anticipate is whether PSNH would handle outages any slower in our town if most got their electrons through Community Power and it was determined it should not be any slower "than it already is." PSNH and NHEC are responsible for the infrastructure and the delivery or transmission charge should not affect that responsibility.
  - c. More "technical" or detailed questions regarding "special customers" such as "net metering" or "low income" customers will be answered individually but the plan should actually be a benefit for each. Such individual situations are not central to the launch of the program.
  - d. Handouts for the deliberative session were recommended as many people could use something to read during the drawn-out times of these sessions.
  - e. Since the "deliberative session can be so drawn out it is not conducive for Standard Power to attend although we can communicate to them when it is likely to be discussed for that option.
3. The warrant article wording has been presented to the BOS and Katrin continued to say that it sounded good as presented at the BOS meeting but has not been formally approved as of yet.
4. There was discussion that the Warrant Article is unlikely to be altered during the deliberative session due to its very nature as an approval (Y or N) to allow the BOS to enter into an Electrical Services Agreement with Standard Power for a time period to be defined. It is recommended by the Community Power Committee formed to study it and present it to the town for approval.
5. There was a lengthy discussion about getting the Community Power Agreement presented to Legal Counsel ASAP, as that has been a hold up on prior town initiatives.
  - a. A discussion about alternative legal options to ensure that it can done in a timely manner has Lou to discuss with Durham who they use. Barbara possibly knew someone out of Exeter who might also be experts in this area.
6. This clarified our role as a separate Community Power Committee to gather the information and present it to the town for their approval at the Voting Session on 3/14/23. At that time this committee will be disbanded. The continuous Lee Energy Committee will monitor progress on a regular basis, anticipated to be at least annually.
7. Is there a way to find out the biggest business electricity users in the town to target who we approach with the posters and other materials to get their input?
8. Our next meeting will be on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January—it will be a public information meeting at 10:30 AM. Committee members are encouraged to be early to prepare.

Minutes submitted by Don Anderson