

LEE COMMUNITY POWER COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 31, 2023

ATTENDANCE: Don Anderson, Louis Grondin, Katrin Kasper (BOS representative), Barbara Wauchope, Carol Doering, Erik Johnson, Mary Woodward, Bill Humm.

Meeting start at 10:30am

OLD BUSINESS:

The CPC Minutes of 1/10/23 and 1/17/ 23 were reviewed and approved.

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
6. 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. Emily provided an updated Warrant Article for the committee's review via EM.
7. Emily also provided a poster for use by the committee. 10 were printed for review.
 - a. 10 posters distributed—see below.
8. 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.
 - a. This is still not in place, who can call Emily to get an update?
9. Committee members requested that the FAQ sheet be printed for handouts.
 - a. Lou presented an alternative handout that included the warrant article and support information. An anticipated question whether PSNH would handle outages any slower was explained as "the supply is merely a 'passthrough' to Eversource. We were previously not sure about NHEC, but Lou got a quote as to how they see it: "NHEC does not mark up the rates it charges for power, nor does it profit from the sale of electricity" –NHEC January 2023 newsletter).
 - b. He can print up to 50 for the meeting—see item 7 below.
10. Community Power Agreement sent to legal ASAP. (status?)
11. Next Public CPC meeting: Tuesday 1/17/22 10:30 AM (Completed—see below)
12. ADDED: Article for Foster's Daily Democrat (see item 3 below.)
13. Scheduled CPC / Energy Committee meeting: Tuesday 1/31/23. (details below)
14. Third and final CPC Public Meeting at the deliberative session: Saturday 2/4/23
15. Vote on the Warrant Article on Town Voting Day of 3/14/23

NEW BUSINESS (1/31/23):

1. Barbara noted that her name was not listed for the Energy committee on the town website. There was a question as to whether it was limited to 5 members and Katrin indicated she would check that out and get it resolved. It is noted that Bill is a member of the Community Power Committee, but the additional names are also not listed.
2. Noting that the deliberative session is this weekend, Lou had a recommended hand out for attendees of the meeting. It was generally reviewed and Items of note in the discussion was that Community Power Aggregation is not a new thing citing a NH Business Review article that showed at the end of the last decade nearly 1900 municipalities and 36 million people are under a community power program. NH Senate Bill 286 made it possible in 2019 for NH.
3. Katrin Kasper noted that there was an article in Foster's Daily Democrat about Dover's efforts toward Community Power through the Coalition. The committee discussed how Lee might get some coverage with an article presented to them as well. The discussion also centered around the differences between Lee's efforts through a broker and the Coalition, which may still be an option for the future for the town of Lee. We noted that the Coalition has a higher risk with it's possible higher reward. Mary Woodward volunteered to write up an article for possible publication in Fosters. We would then run it by Emily of Standard Power and Andy the Town Administrator.
4. There was discussion about many people's unsubstantiated, but real to them, concern about NHEC and Eversource not serving the town in Emergencies as actively as they can in due to our implementing Community Power. Katrin was meeting with an Eversource representative on 2/1/23 to discuss with them regarding what the town can do to gain information on how emergency services can be helped by the town in a pre-emptive manner. The town is rife with tall pine trees by its very nature and has many "scenic roadways" designated that lead to such recent storm problems that closed 10 roads. She will present what she learns to us at meeting on 2/7/23.
5. There was an old "tree person" expert at Unitil or NHEC mentioned as well to contact to learn more about what can be done.
6. The recent emergency brought out a discussion about residents knowledge and understanding of the Public Service Building as a "warming center" during such emergencies. Many members of the committee themselves were unaware of it and the committee can contact Caren Rossi and Scott Nemett to gain more knowledge.
7. There was a discussion on the varied wording being used and the committee agreed to take the word "small" out of the business reference, include the phrase "options for your values" as well as the "option for no change, even prior to launch" through the use of the cards being sent out. They can still vote "yes" and opt-out on an individual basis. Lou and Mary to work on the "hand out" for the deliberative session.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM.

Minutes submitted by Don Anderson