

LEE ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 2, 2023

ATTENDANCE: Don Anderson, Louis Grondin, Carol Doering, Mary Woodward, Erik Johnson

The minutes of the 4-4-23 meeting of the committee was circulated and approved by all in the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Consumer Power PUC application is still expected to be implemented in the Fall of 2023 and the Thank You to the voters by the committee was sent to Denise Duval for the E-Crier. An e-mail was sent to Emily Mann who updated the committee on the status via e-mail.
2. Solar Power Initiatives:
 - a. Solar on Mast Way: No additional actions yet defined for possible implementation.
 - b. Transfer station solar implementation was expected to be turned on the following day (5-5-23). Lou connected with Rachel Eaves of Revision Solar, and all Committee members were updated via e-mail with a savings tracker tool by Revision Solar after the system became active.
 - c. Regarding Solar Power Farms on Town property or private entities: No further discussion.
3. Regarding energy cost savings for town buildings:
 - a. Lou previously did a zoom meeting with Katrinka, the library trustee, and worked to get on their meeting agenda. Lou had previously connected with Yankee Thermal that confirmed they could come look at it if needed. There was discussion regarding NH Saves, through Eversource, and we can get the number of a designer who could design around it. (Via e-mail: While we could not get on the next agenda Lou did get an update: They are removing the vermiculite and replacing it with insulation.
 - i. Erik followed up the meeting and was able to get from the town the heating bills for the library—the question is whether the library even sees the bills as it is shared with the old town hall.)
 - b. Mary continues her investigation and updating of the committee on the goals of other towns and the sustainability of buildings through building codes sending some great information via e-mail.
 - i. Conclusion she made is that “net zero” is not good enough, the term now is to get to “zero-zero”.
 - ii. A message was sent through EnergyNH.Gov looking for proper contacts and it seems this is being somewhat “derailed” by the Science & Technology Committee of the State.
 - iii. The present NH statute is 6 years out of date as the State just adopted the 2018 building standards and a new one is being issued in 2024.
 - iv. We were wondering if we could borrow from what Peterborough was doing and Mary will contact for permission. (Update via e-mail: Peterborough said we could use whatever we wanted from their website.)
 - c. Katrin continues evaluating and working on what grants are possible. Katrin Kasper is learning a great deal from her contacts at Eversource and NHEC and at NH Clean Energy.

4. Regarding archiving items on the town web site—Don followed up with Denise. (Via e-mail she removed the 4 requested items that were dated and no longer applicable and will update the remaining ones when we send updated information.)
 - a. The Committee still needs to update the CIP improvements (2017-2024), Energy Handbook, Homeowner guides and Energy Efficiency Road Map for the town buildings.
5. Regarding an expert on heat pumps Matt Rusteika, and the possible tree expert for education, no discussion.
6. As to a transfer of the Energy Committee to that of an Energy Commission:
 1. Carol reviewed the wording of RSA 38 .
 2. While John Tappan had presented this possibility to the Select Board in their meeting of 3-20-23, discussion was around asking Katrin what the “unofficial time-line” might be to become a commission and whether it needs to be on the BOS agenda. Next BOS meeting was believed to be the following Wednesday at 5:30 PM.
 3. While the new commission can recommend goals to the BOS, based on Mary’s investigation of other towns, the discussion was around how to make them more concrete for the town. This could lead to an annual Warrant Article for the commission on the Town Vote Agenda. Regarding the whole house monitor there was no update, and regarding funds it was felt that **becoming a commission with a continuous fund available that carries over year to year might make the prior discussions moot.**

There was no New Business to discuss. Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM.