

New Boston Energy Commission Meeting
Prepared By: Ryan Nealley
Attendees: Ryan, Bill, Daryl, Donna, Susan, Roger
Missing: None

February 16, 2023

Old Business

- **Standard Power Discussions**

- Renewable Energy and Municipal Power Purchasing
- For Community Power they partner with Good Energy
- In NH they have 8 towns including the city of Keene
- We could be on track to submit a plan for 2023
- Community power was approved in 2023.
- They also do group net metering
- The power company doesn't make money on the supply portion
- In Somerville, MA is an example base power rate is typically below the utility default. It beat default 9 out of 10, 6-month periods
- Program is an opt-out style program. All residents are automatically opted into the program. It allows for residents to opt out at any time.
- Program utilizes REC's to verify renewable energy projects
- Green Default plan increases green energy supply by almost 50%.
 - 50% and 100% renewable energy options are also allowable
- 2,200 Households in town 6-7,000 kwh per household.
- They do a community survey to determine what the town on all wants to want to do renewable energy wise.
- They then produce 3 to 4 plans options based on the renewable content.
- No risk to the municipality or customers. All risks are the suppliers and no impact on the budget. Only minimal fees for getting contract completed and set up.
- Need to appoint a Community Power Committee as long as it follows the town committee rules.
- Bob Hayden and Patrick Roche are the contacts.
- Next deadline would be to get a town warrant to approve a community warrant.
- Possibly send out the survey thru town groups such as taxpayer, democrats, republicans, groups etc.
- Standard Power will help with templates and help us get it in line for March meeting.
- No cancelation fees. You can move in and out of the program easily.
- Net-metering customers could sell their RECs to the program.
- If the program fails the plan members will automatically transfer to Eversource.
- Law requires 2 public sessions/hearings before commencement.
- Standard Power shall provide us a more detailed timeline.
- They get paid by the rate not directly by the town. If the plan is not approved town does not have to pay. (9/6)
- Daryl will send the information and schedule to Paul so we can move it forward. (11/1)
- Goal is to consider community power plan at town meeting
 - We will need a warrant article for the meeting

- Standard Power will provide us a draft warrant article.
- The plan will be available online for review by public
- Default utility is opt-out if 3rd party upon expiration of contract they will default into the lower rate
- Solar PV will be as good or better than the utility as per buyback for over production.
- No effect on town budget
- Need to do two open public meetings
- Possibility of a side fund and need to determine what we need to do with it.
- Deliberative Session is 2/6. CPAC Chair shall present the warrant etc.
- Need to disseminate web page and materials and survey from Standard Power.
- Reserve a ¼ page ad tomorrow. (Donna)
- Need motion to create the “Community Power Committee” Based on the Energy Commission
- Attend the Dec 19th Meeting and Daryl will Present to the planning Board. (Daryl)
- Keene’s plan has been approved and 3 more shall be approved before we have the January meeting.
- Town Administrator needs to confirm that the roles are appropriate for the town government setup.
- **Two Official Public Hearings** in January. Possibly one on Sunday afternoon at the library and one in the evening at town hall.
 - Library Meeting on 1/15/22 2PM, Library January 17,2023
 - Donna shall confirm what is the minimum required days’ notice.
- Donna shall share the draft agreement with the Select Board for review.
- EC/CPAC shall meet for initial CPAC Meeting December 20 at 630.
- 2.5-3 cents typical savings currently 7 cents savings per kWh.
- Daryl to be the Chairman of the new CPAC committee.
- Publish the draft plan on January 1st after approval on the 20th for public review.
- Daryl to inform the selectman and Town Manager about the publishing the survey.
- Standard Power to pay for the Beacon Ad.
- **We had the town informational meetings (2/16)**
- **We provided information at the deliberative session. (2/16)**
- **Lets provide another round of social media posts for information and the survey. (2/16)**
- **Transfer Station Solar**
 - Towns new electrical contract is \$0.06 per kW rather than the \$0.09 per kW paybacks were calculated under. (10/5)
 - It will currently not be feasible with the current energy contract due current reduced costs. (11/2)
 - Set aside for two years until the expiration of the third-party energy contract. Need to re-examine September 2022. (12/7)
 - Hold until August 2022 (2/15)
 - The rate schedule has not been provided yet. (4/5)
 - Look into extending 3-phase power up old coach road. (6/7)
 - Possibly look at battery storage. (6/7)

- RCN to check with Electrical about it again. (7/12)
- Still awaiting a municipal electrical rate (8/2)
- Roger to reach out to Granite State again to look at the possible current costs. (8/2)
- Granite State is interested in it but need investors. 30% rebate has been extended until 2030. (11/1)
- **Discuss and look to put out RFP in September if works. (2/16)**
- **Commercial Solar Generation Installation**
 - Ryan and Lee attended the meeting and will issue notes (11/2)
 - Need to provide notes on our thoughts for each ordinance
 - Next meeting is the 23rd.
 - We will restart and revisit in late January 2022. (12/7)
 - We will start up again in April 2022. (2/15)
 - On Hold (4/5)
 - On Hold (11/1)
 - **This should be discussed with the board and reupped with planning board again. (2/16)**
 - **We should bring up discussions about setbacks and aesthetics. (2/16)**
- **Municipal Cable**
 - Comcast showed up at Selectmen's meeting to provide pitch as to why we should stay with them and discussed a joint effort with town, comcast and federal monies. (11/2)
 - Comcast says we should have our proposal prepared for when the monies are released. (11/2)
 - Comcast serves 2900 structures. Currently we have about 3000 structures in town. (11/2)
 - Found a few houses Scobi and Leach hill where the houses are further then ½ mile from the road. (11/2)
 - Trying to get consolidated to the table to discuss offers since they are talking about getting fiber into the state thru-out. (11/2)
 - David L. is going to put a request in the paper for residents to tell the town if they do not have access to broadband. (11/2)
 - We got all of Comcasts information and are awaiting Consolidated to come to meeting. (12/7)
 - The cell density survey company is coming in on the January 24th to discuss at the broadband meter. (12/7)
 - January 24th meeting attended by Bill, Susan, and Ryan and discussed possible data collection ideas. (2/15)
 - Have a table at voting night Susan will ask Nyquist if we can get a table. (2/15)
 - Survey Monkey Questions (to be run by Jennifer) (2/15)
 - Address
 - Current Provider If not comcast
 - 1-10 Satisfaction Scale on Service
 - Remarks
 - Survey Monkey results so far are 75 responses. (4/ 5)
 - ARPA funds to pay for a mailing ask Jennifer. (4/5)

- Consolidated is going to have a meeting with (Broadband Commission) before the selectman. (5/3)
- The survey didn't gather too much we are going to cancel (5/3)
- Put a note in the paper requesting if people have feedback for broadband access. (5/3)
- Consolidated was going to hold off until federal funding is decided. Last word is \$50m for the state. (6/7)
- Look at possibilities of wireless Broadband (T-Mobile) (7/13)
- Look into Comcast services. (7/13)
- Waiting on responses from Fidium (8/2)
- Consolidated has provided dates for a meeting. (9/6)
- EC Fiber Coop Broadband need to talk to them and see how the bond would happen. (9/6)
- Comcast will talk once we (9/6)
- Consolidated meeting says that they are not extending to New Boston at this time. (10/4)
- We should get Comcast back out here. (10/4)
- CCI is out, Starlink is Out, Comcast is the remaining option waiting on funding. (11/1)
- **This is still waiting on Comcast for funding. (2/16)**
- **Bill talked with .gov who stated funds will be put out for the whole state to get broadband but specifics haven't been determined yet. The house committee is going to put out contracts for towns. (2/16)**
- **Towns will not have to put out any money it will be funded entirely by the state/federal government. (2/16)**
- **Library HVAC Plans**
 - Narrative for library about replacing HVAC with Heat Pumps. (10/5)
 - New equipment selected both full replacement and LEV Kit. (11/2)
 - Bill will reach out to me about having a meeting on heat pumps and discussing the options. (11/2)
 - Possible new addition in the future in the building. Could size the heat pump to accommodate. (11/2)
 - Provided them selections from both vendors (12/7)
 - Waiting for a meeting invite to discuss. (12/7)
 - Reconnect with the library (6/7)
 - Roger and Ryan had a meeting with the library and discussed possibilities. (8/2)
 - RCN gave estimates and Library has been gathering proposals. (11/1)
 - They haven't talked to us they were talking to GSPH. RCN to check on them. (2/16)
 -
- **Electrical Rate Contract**
 - Waiting on the rates for the new contract (5/3)
 - Bill is going to check (5/3)
 - Still waiting on the rate. (6/7)
 - 22 cents production rate was approved temporarily until January. (7/12)
 - Waiting on the Town Rate new rate may make it viable. (7/12)
 - Rate is \$0.1645 per kW for 12/12/22 to 11/8/24 (11/1)

- **Closed (2/16)**
- **New Boston Central School**
 - Discussion about potential and needed upgrades at the school including:
 - Boilers
 - Ground Mount Solar
 - Air Handlers
 - **Check with them about Daikin. (2/16)**
- **Building Energy Audits**
 - Need to update our 2011 audits with current recommendations. (10/4)
 - RCN will find out where they are and do quick pass thru to clear what has been done. (11/1)
- **Rec Building**
 - Need Load Calcs (11/1)
 - Currently Oil Fired (11/1)
 - Want Split Heat Pumps Central Cassettes (11/1)
 - **Check If we did Load Calcs. (2/16)**
- **NBCS**
 - Roger to check on what if any funding is left for ESSER Funding. (11/1)
 - Funding needs to be spent by August 2024 (to be checked) (11/1)
 - **Check with Randy if it is spent. (2/16)**
- **Master Plan**
 - Update the potential equipment's replacement in the Master Plan (10/1)
 - Updating the grids and matrix with updates etc. (10/1)
 - **Need to update the Matrix. (2/16)**

New Business

- **Bill**
 - Mill Street Light is still up and hasn't been removed by Eversource.
 - Request the town hall write a letter to push the work. (Donna)
 - Brownout issues.
 - Should phase monitoring be put on town buildings to protect and switch to generator for Phase monitoring for generator switch over.
 - Find out if anything happened for equipment damage.
 - Compressors
 - Heat Pumps
 - Alert Community what to do in the future. RCN will discuss with my Electrical Engineer (2/16)
- **Susan**
 - Bring up solar with the school again.
- **Roger**
 - Refresh the list of possible projects to the school.
- Next Meeting is at the Town Hall at **6:30 PM** on **March 7, 2023**