

HOPKINTON ENERGY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2023

DRAFT MINUTES

I. **Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 5:32 PM by Chair Ken Traum

Members present: Ken Traum, Stephen Eckberg, Mark Zankel, Cleve Kapala, Lynn Durand

Members absent: Jack Ruderman, Sara Hoffman

New member present by telephone: Sharon Nall

Staff present: none

Public present: none

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The draft minutes of the June 8, 2023 meeting were approved without amendment

Vote 6-0

III. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

A. Energy committee charge

There was a discussion of the original charge of the Hopkinton Energy Committee. It is felt that our charge is at this point has been altered from its original format due to the creation of the Hopkinton Community Power Committee. In addition, the membership size has been increased to 8 members and this new position is being filled by Sharon Nall. It was discussed and approved by consensus that this Hopkinton Energy Committee does not need to address:

1. Community Power as this will be handled by the newly formed Hopkinton Community Power Committee
2. The Contoocook Hydropower Dam as this negotiation has already been dealt with.
3. At a future meeting the Committee may discuss if wants to increase the Committee's Charge and ask the Select Board to do so.

B. Solar Updates

Sara Hoffman is looking into the possibility of placing solar panels on the Hopkinton Highway Garage and the newly remodeled Houston Barn. However, it is felt that there will need to be a structural engineering assessment of the roof of this structure. It has been suggested that we discuss this proposal with Revision Energy and there is a suggestion that this structural engineering assessment could cost in the range of \$1,000 - \$2,000.

C. Kast Hill Gravel Pit potential solar array

It was proposed by Mark Zankel that we wait until we have obtained an overall assessment from an energy consultant (see below) prior to moving ahead on discussions on this project as this might be a part of that assessment. Mark also noted that there may be some inherent deterring factors regarding this site such as the fact that the slope is not ideally south facing and that the accessibility to the grid is not ideal.

D. New Business

Mark Zankel suggested that this Hopkinton Energy Committee collaborate with the Hopkinton Schools' Energy Committee in order to potentially function as one unit for the town. There was general consensus in agreement with this . Reportedly the Hopkinton Schools plan on hiring an Energy Consultant to look at their entire energy plan. We would like to see if we could join in working with this consultant. We would need to seek funding for this collaboration.

ACTION: Mark Zankel is to follow up with the Hopkinton School District Energy Committee in regard to collaborating with their Energy Plan and the use of their Energy Consultant.

It was noted by Mark Zankel that NH House Bill 281 has passed. This bill will expand the potential for Group Net Metering such that an array such as the proposed array for the Kast Hill Gravel Pit might be able to be of much greater capacity (eg in the 5 Megawatt range rather than 1 Megawatt).

IV. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

V. **OTHER**

None

Next meeting: Thursday August 17 at 5:30 PM (This date was later changed to August 10)

Note that Ken Traum would like us to look for a new chair for this committee.

VI. **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment at 6:07 by a vote of 6-0

Respectfully submitted by Lynn Durand, July 19, 2023

