

TOWN OF HOPKINTON – ENERGY COMMITTEE

DRAFT PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, September 28, 2023

I. Call to Order

Committee Vice Chair Sharon Nall called the meeting of the Hopkinton Energy Committee to Order at 5:40 PM.

Members present: Ken Traum, Cleve Kapala (via phone), Jack Ruderman, Sarah Hoffman, Mark Zankel

Members of the public present: Adriane Zanetti

Members absent - Stephen Eckberg, Lynn Durand

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes was made by Ken Traum, seconded by Sharon Nall. Voted by roll call for phone attendee.

III. Business Items

- i. Review of Committee charge – delayed until Steve can join discussion.
- ii. Update on School Energy Committee. Ken noted that there would be a joint meeting of school board and select board on 10/10/23 at the Maple Street School starting at 5:30. Mark participated in a call with a consultant and the School Energy Committee no RFP has been compiled yet. The consultant on the call was a national vendor and was focusing on how to lower the school's energy costs and source more clean energy. Mark felt that the call was more exploratory and that the school was not ready to work with this particular vendor.
Jack asked if the school and the town could combine forces and work together on an energy plan / goals / potential solar or other. Mark confirmed that school would be willing to work together.
- iii. Sarah reviewed solar visit from Eric St Pierre of Revision Energy. Visit was on 8/11/23. Eric and Sarah toured the Highway Garage, the library and the Slusser Center and barn. At the time Eric was going to work up more preliminary solar estimates and PPA estimates for these 3 town sites, however once he learned that the Select Board was going to require RFPs for the work he did not want to continue the extended effort at this time. Sarah noted that there had been discussion around the idea of a large town wide PPA that would include the Kast Hill array and other locations discussed for town buildings.

- iv. Kast Hill solar was reviewed. There is currently no RFP for the work. Mark has reviewed the interconnection capacity and felt it might limit size of the solar array at Kast Hill. It was thought that the active Hydro facility in the area may be taking most of system capacity. Mark stated that the solar companies / developers would research all these issues when responding to an RFP. The RFP could include how the solar array / system could benefit both the Town and the School – Mark reiterated that these are issues the solar companies should address in their proposals to the Town / School. Mark indicated that there are RFP models available and that it should not be difficult to develop an RFP for Kast Hill. Ken said he would bring it up at the Joint meeting with Select Board and School. Sharon was concerned that the Kast Hill Gravel pit was still being used. Ken clarified that the pit is close to the end of use.
- v. Contoocook Hydro Agreement is complete! Ken reviewed that the agreement contains a 30% increase in rate being paid back to town. The rate includes RECs and now 6% of gross revenues. Past REC benefits were paid to the town in full. Term of new agreement is 20 years with renewal option to increase to 40.

Other Discussions

- Jack asked about the status of the solar ground array at the transfer station. Ken said that the Select Board just met with the Webster Select Board and the contracted solar company is still working on the project. Mark indicated that if the company asks to renew the option that the town should ask for a detailed update.
- Ken mentioned the N.H Energy Expo to take place on 10/14 from 9:00 – 2:30 – location Dunbarton Elementary School
- Mark reported that Freedom Energy (an energy broker) contacted him. They are interested in giving a pitch on saving the town money via net metering revenues. Jack asked if the town was eligible now that we are CPCNH members. Mark said that yes the town could still benefit. The question was asked if we should hear the pitch. Ken suggested that Mark ask Henry Herndon if other CPCNH communities were participating with net metering revenues, etc.

IV. Public Comments

None

V. Other

Next meeting date – 10/26/23 to start at 6:00 pm

VI. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ken and seconded by Sharon. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 6:23 pm.

