



Energy and Environment Advisory Committee

Wednesday September 27, 2023 at 7pm

Town Hall, Auditorium

Meeting Minutes

Present: Ellen Read, Partick Reynolds, Joe Lamattina, Roberta Branca, Alex Rentumis.

Guest: Lyndsay Butler (Town Engineer).

Excused: Julianna Tyson, Bill Raley

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM.

Public Comment Open at 7:06

Public Comment Closed at 7:06

Ellen introduced Lyndsay Butler (Town Engineer). Lyndsay will be the committees point of contact for any required interactions with town personnel.

Lyndsay gave a brief recap of her background and role with the committee.

Minutes from June 28, 2023

Motion – Joe Lamattina

Second – Roberta Blanca

Approved – 4, 0, 1 – Alex Rentumis abstained.

Ellen gave an update of a recent meeting with Town Manager and all board chairs.

- Town will be providing space on a shared drive for all committee documents. Public Documents should not be kept on personal computers.
- Committees are encouraged to create social media accounts. Any social media accounts should have comments turned off.

There was discussion about the existing Facebook Page “Newmarket Energy and Environment Committee” Joe stated it’s owned by former member Pete Nelson.

Action Item: Roberta to contact Pete Nelson and get the Facebook Page administration turned over to the committee.

- The committee needs to remain aware of Right To Know Laws and what constitutes a “Public Meeting” Comments on Social Media and work on a shared document by all members could be considered a meeting.

Action Item: Joe to confirm with the Town Manager if work on a shared document meets the definition of a meeting.

- Committee members should consider creating eMail ids specific to that committee. Example ERead_Energy_and_Environment@Gmail.Com.

Lyndsay gave an update on plans for the towns updating of the Towns Master Plan. Town has contracted Strafford Regional Planning to review and update all chapters. Plans are to get that going in the next few months. Town has a \$90,000 budget for the Master Plan update.

Lyndsay gave an update on current Solar Power projects. The town is currently working with Revision Energy on two projects, one at Sewell Well the other at Tucker Well. Both sites offer connections to required infrastructure with minimal cost. There are also discussions about roof top projects particularly at the high school. Projects are in initial preliminary design phases. There was discussion about an area off of New Road, Lyndsay stated they have ruled out that sight as a new access road would be required and infrastructure access would be expensive.

There was a discussion about Grants. Joe asked Lyndsay if she received information on Grants.

Action Item: Joe to send Lyndsay a copy of a proposed grant by NH-Dept Of Energy and other potential grant opportunities.

Joe gave an update on where things stand with Community Power. The Cost Sharing Agreement and Member Services Agreement with Community Power Coalition New Hampshire (CPCNH) has been verbally approved by the Town Manager, next step is for Town Council to approve the documents. A workshop to walk thru the documents with the Town Council and final Town Council vote will be scheduled for October 4th, 6PM Town Hall. There was discussion about the Newmarket Community Power Logo.

There was discussion about how best to educate the public about Newmarket Community Powers planned launch in the Spring of 2024. Joe handed out examples of flyers/pamphlets that we could make available at the Town Clerks Office and potential at the March 2024 elections.

Action Item: Joe to talk with Henry Herdon about what CPCNH can do for us.

Ellen walked thru the Energy Chapter of the Master Plan as it currently stands. Committee comments were favorable to the changes she and Roberta have made. There was discussion about the areas that need information from the town, this is a good opportunity for the committee to use Lyndsay to get electric usage from various town departments.

Pat stated that Strafford County Regional Planners are being hired to do just that and wordsmith the Energy Chapter, the committee should create points that we would like Strafford Regional to address. This approach greatly helps the committee.

Action Item: Ellen to send Joe what items are needed. (Done during the meeting).

Action Item: Joe to compile the requested information for Lyndsay.

There was discussion about Public Transportation for Newmarket. Ellen suggested she and Joe meet with Carol Gulla. Ellen would like to bring her in for our next meeting to access what we can do related to public transportation. There was discussion about school busses and how to encourage the school dept to switch busses to use renewable resources.

Next meeting October 25, 2023 – Town Hall Auditorium – 7PM

Meeting adjourned at 8:37PM