

Energy and Environment Advisory Committee

April 6, 2021 [ZOOM]

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm.

Attendees

Committee members present: Peter Nelson, Chair; Roberta Branca, Secretary; Toni Weinstein, Town Council Rep; Ellen Read, Member; Anders Holmes, Member; Cris Blackstone, Member.

Public comments – Three residents of Newmarket were present to speak in support of the Ready for 100 Resolution. Toni Weinstein, chair of the town council and council representative to this committee, said that she will vote to recommend the resolution tonight but will recommend to the council that they not support consideration of the resolution.

Approval of minutes

There were no March minutes because the meeting was cancelled due to an anticipated lack of a quorum.

The minutes for February 16, 2021 were approved unanimously.

Reports

Town Council Rep (Toni Weinstein) - The town council received a request from the Police Department to purchase the first hybrid police cruiser. Toni said the police chief estimated that roughly 80% of a 6-hour shift is spent idling, so this initiative will save the town money on fuel as well as reduce emissions. Peter asked if there are plans for the overall fleet, and whether there has been or will be an investigation into the Return on Investment. He also wanted to know if there is potential to buy fully electric vehicles. Toni said the council has often asked about fully electric vehicles in the past.

Approval of "Ready for 100" Town of Newmarket Statement –

Peter asked why the petition Ellen has circulated did not include all of the language suggested in previous meetings, and whether the petition could be attached to the resolution when we send it. He asked the committee to read other town's resolutions and consider additional changes.

Ellen said that she included all the suggested changes that had been voted on by the committee, but did not include changes that had not been agreed upon. Ellen said that there were 50 signatures so far, with more expected, as well as testimonials from officials in other towns.]

There was some general discussion about the need for the Town Hall to verify the signatures as Newmarket residents. Peter said the resolution could be submitted with advice to the town council that more signatures are being acquired, and that he hoped this would be wrapped up.

Ellen read the language in the petition and made a motion to send this resolution as read to the town council. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote. Peter asked Ellen to "clean up" the resolution wording before he submits it to the town manager for placement on the agenda.

Solarize Newmarket Campaign - There are two completed RFPs submitted, by Revision Energy and 603 Solar, and a partial submission by a third company submitted this afternoon.

Ellen asked why wording pertaining to low-income residents and renters was not included when the RFP was sent out, as this was voted on by the committee ahead of time. She asked if we would be able to go back and ask the vendor applicants for their ideas to reach provide solar to low-income households, etc. Peter said that we could go back. Peter said that we can go back, and that our job is to evaluate the proposals side by side using standardized criteria, and to ask more questions. Ellen offered to resend her previous email containing questions for vendors about low income initiatives. She said also that neither proposal seemed to contain hard numbers that can be used to assess affordability.

Peter said that generally cost is per kilowatt and that even with a recommended vendor consumers can still shop around for a price.

Roberta asked what our obligation is to consider all three vendors. Peter said that the third vendor was asked to submit the questionnaire in order to be considered, but they said that they did not have time, and that we should consider that in our evaluation.

Ellen said that she hoped cost will be a criterion for evaluation, and that the town is the “belle of the ball”: vendors should meet the criteria we set.

Community Power NH – Peter said that he would like Eversource to provide an additional 12 months of data, and that the next step is formation of the Aggregation Plan but there are no actions needed by the EE committee at this time.

Recharge in Newmarket Campaign – The board discussed ideas for places to install donated EV charging stations. Toni said that we might be at our capacity for public property installations. Peter said we should consider places along 108. The letter we are drafting for businesses can be part of a “two prong attack”: send a letter informing business owners of the availability, and then ask if they are interested.

Ellen signed off verbally at 8:30 p.m. due to other commitments, as announced n advance.

Discussion about raising visibility through Face book and other means continued. Cris said visibility could be raised through additional social media such as Instagram, and with guest speakers

Roberta signed off at 8:40 p.m. via chat, due to home circumstances. She looks forward to in-person meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Branca

Secretary