

Energy and Environment Advisory Committee

December 01, 2020 [ZOOM]

Approved January 5, 2021

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m.

Attendees

Committee members present:

Peter Nelson, Chair; Toni Weinstein, Town Council Representative; Roberta Branca, Secretary; Anders Holm, Member; Ellen Read, Member

Approval of minutes

Minutes from November meeting approved unanimously.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Reports

Report from Town Council Meetings (Toni) - Town Manager Steve Fournier secured two charging stations from Revision and will relay that information to the town council tomorrow night. They will likely be installed at town hall and community center, but this is not finalized yet. Toni will ask the Town Council about finalizing the details so that we can post about them on Facebook.

Action Items

1. Solarize Newmarket Campaign – Peter said that we need to circulate and polish RFP among ourselves this week because whichever providers get involved will want to advertise over the winter months and start installations next spring. Peter will email it to a list of contractors before Christmas. This will kick off new a level of involvement for us. He suggested implementing a scoring scheme for vendor responses, and checkboxes that they should meet.
2. Community Power NH – Peter talked to Henry Herndon at CPNH, which is about to become a legal entity. There is no update at this time. In the meantime Peter is continuing to work on the back end with data.
3. Electric Aggregation Committee Plan formation – Ellen did research on Ready 100 Resolution and sent us their documentation for ideas re: resolution from town. Roberta shared draft EAP goals on our Google Docs drive. Peter would like us to start marking it up. Footnotes and links should remain in place from draft to draft. Find best of three plans and synthesize into our own. Toni attended Nashua's conference re: their work and Thinks we could copy many of their measurable objectives. Ellen noted that many towns have adopted resolutions at 100 percent renewables for electric grid 2030, and 2050 for transportation. The Idea is that we have to make the commitment in order to make a systematic, comprehensive plan. Peter asked how do we end up measuring compliance? Ellen said that at the

moment, we don't know what power company we'll use or what the metrics are: forming the plan is the first metric. Anders compared experience with getting hydroelectric power project online to measuring solar panel on meters. Peter is fine with putting renewables in the EAP. Toni said could be part of the EAP plan or as a stand-alone goal. EAP may not pass for some other reason, so we may want to separate the resolution in that case. Toni said that a resolution by the town selectmen is non-binding. Ellen explained that having the resolution demonstrates our commitment to science in these times, and it puts our feet to the fire to meet the goal. Anders asked if we could set incremental goals like efficiency, etc, and then set larger goal for use of renewable energy.

Anders asked how efficient the town is in using electricity right now? Can they maximize usage? Toni said that two years ago an energy audit was conducted of all town facilities. The water treatment plant is the biggest user and is relatively new. The rest of the buildings are old and need insulation and LED lighting. Peter said there is room on the DPW building for solar expansion. The question is how to pay for it.

Peter asked Ellen if she wants the resolution as a stand-alone submission to the Town Council. Ellen responded that she does want it to be separate from the EAP, and that the resolution doesn't have to include language of joining the coalition of towns. Peter proposes voting in January. Ellen read resolution wording, which includes goals such as energy efficiency of facilities.

4. Public Utilities Commission – Peter said that there is a Group Net Meter presentation link on agenda. Peter asked committee to familiarize themselves with net metering.

Other Business and/or Announcements

1. Toni is going to work on getting some numbers from DPW director Rick Malasky about the tonnage of waste removed from landfill since composting started.
2. Peter observed that DPW data is a good example of a standard agenda item we might want to add to each meeting.
3. Toni said that we will probably have an extension of the waste management contract and will see increase in trash bag prices but the town is lucky to have a 1 year contract and just a small fee increase.
4. Ellen offered to invite a town official from a community that is further along with meeting a renewable energy solution, such as Hanover, to speak to our committee about resolutions as a form of commitment.

Meeting Close

The meeting was closed at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Branca

Secretary