

Rye Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 2, 2021
3:00-4:30 PM, Via Zoom

Meeting ID: 886 8347 2716 Passcode: 235689

Call-in Number: 929436-2866

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88683472716?pwd=a3pVQXZpTW5pNFVneFQvcnROdkVTdz09>

1) Attestation and Roll Call:

Attestation read by: Howard Kalet

Howard Kalet: Present and alone in room

Tom Pfau: Present and alone in room

Lisa Sweet: Present and alone in room

Carl Nicolino: Present and alone in room

Jay McFarland joined as a guest.

2) January and February Meeting Minutes Approval

Minutes from both January and February were approved unanimously.

Howard Kalet: Approve

Tom Pfau: Approve

Lisa Sweet: Approve

Carl Nicolino: Approve

3) Conversation with Jay McFarland on NH Zero Emission Vehicles

In response to an article in Seacoast online about Kennebunkport leasing 2 electric vehicles for town use ("As a result of the Hyundai rebate and funds from Efficiency Maine, the town would pay nothing for the lease, Smith said."), we invited Jay McFarland of Hampton Ford-Hyundai to our meeting. While the incentives are different in Maine than in NH we thought it would be interesting to learn more about the feasibility of leasing electric vehicles in the future. Jay explained that because NH has not adopted zero emission standards, it can be harder in NH to test drive or purchase zero emission vehicles. Thirteen states have adopted these standards - Massachusetts, Vermont, Maine, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, Washington, Oregon, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, Colorado and also the District of Columbia. NH is surrounded by states that have adopted the standards. Manufacturers of zero emissions vehicles send 50% of their inventory to the states that have adopted zero emissions standards and the other 50% go to the remaining states. There is proposed NH legislation that would help enable emissions standards but implementation will take time.

Jay also noted that there are many new vehicles in development including electric vehicles tailored to delivery services. These vehicles need less range than a personal vehicle may need making them more affordable for businesses.

4) Update on Energy Related House bills

The bills the Energy Committee has been following are:

- HB 213 - This bill would effectively *reduce* NH's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) from 25% in 2025 to just under 9% in 2035. **Status - Retained**
- HB 225 - This bill would reset net metering credit to wholesale prices. **Status - Killed**
- HB 315 - This bill had the potential to derail RSA-53A, the "Community Power" law. This bill has been amended with much work by the sponsor and those who opposed it in its original form. As amended, the bill preserves Community Power authorities and improves the existing statute. **Status - In Committee**
- HB 549 - This bill would reduce the systems benefit charge and weaken the proposed Triennial Efficiency Plan. **Status - Retained**

5) Rye Master Plan

The Energy Committee is aware that Rye is beginning the process to update the Master Plan. We understand that the Planning Board is taking the lead and Howard will call Kim Reed for further details. In the interim, we are reviewing the prior Energy chapter and looking at samples from other towns so that when the process begins we will be informed.

6) Lighting Upgrade Update

The lighting upgrade at the library and the town garage are completed. A lightning upgrade plan for the Public Safety building was provided in 2019, but the work was never approved. Howard did a walk-through of the building with Chief Walsh. Issues from the last lighting upgrade were reviewed. The Energy Committee is hoping the revised upgrade can be approved and completed this year with attention paid to resolve previous issues.

7) School Solar PPA

The School Board is reviewing the revised contract from Revision. There is a virtual informational meeting planned for May 8. The School Board, Revision and Kevin Brandon will likely lead the presentation. The Energy Committee will attend and provide any support necessary.

8) New Business

The Energy Committee has been working with municipal entities to make sure they are purchasing their energy supply at the best rate possible. Currently Eversource is offering the lowest rates but several buildings had contracts with other suppliers that previously had better rates. The renewal of those contracts is being explored.

The Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH) is holding an informational meeting for municipal and community leaders on Community Power. It is on March 18 from 10:30 - 12. CPCNH is a non-profit organization formed to help foster resilient NH communities by providing education, engagement and technical assistance for Community Power.

Next virtual meeting is on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 from 3:00-4:30 PM. Meeting adjourned at 4:26 PM

A Checklist To Ensure Meetings Are Compliant With The Right-to-Know Law During The State Of Emergency

As Co-Chair of the Energy Committee, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are:

a) Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means:

We are utilizing Zoom for this electronic meeting.¹ All members of the Energy Committee have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone # 646-558-8656, with meeting ID # 869-6680-9930 and password 321456, or by participating via Zoom with meeting ID # 869-6680-9930 and password 321456.

b) Providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting:

We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, including how to access the meeting using Zoom or telephonically. Instructions have also been provided on the Town of Rye website at www.town.rye.nh.us

c) Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access:

If anybody has a problem, please call 603-964-5523 or email Janice Ireland at: jireland2@ryenh.us

d) Adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting:

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled.

Please note that **all votes** that are taken during this meeting shall be done by **roll call vote**.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states their presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law.

¹ Many public bodies are utilizing video conferencing technology, such as Zoom, to ensure the electronic meeting comply with the Right-to-Know law and any applicable due process requirements. In certain circumstances, a regular business meeting of a public body may be conducted utilizing audio-only technology. If you have any questions about the appropriateness of the technology utilized to conduct your meeting, please consult your agency counsel or the Attorney General's Office.