

# Rye Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 4, 2021

3:00-4:30 PM, Via Zoom

Meeting ID: 893 5016 4295    Passcode: 325632

Call-in Number: 646-558-8656

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89350164295?pwd=d3pWVjRXTld1UTdhVFJuWHA1UktWdz09>

## **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

## **2)    April Meeting Minutes Approval**

Minutes from April were approved unanimously.

Howard Kalet: Approve

Tom Pfau: Approve

Lisa Sweet: Approve

Carl Nicolino: Approve

## **3)    350NH - expanding municipal solar in Rye?**

Kai Parlett of 350NH filled out the Energy Committee web page contact form asking to speak with someone about expanding solar on Rye municipal buildings. She said some 350NH sea-coast members have talked about a petitioning for a warrant article to get more municipal solar installed in Rye. The Energy Committee and the Rye Select Board are very supportive of solar and the Energy Committee has been exploring the multiple options for municipal buildings. Currently, there is a Solar PPA for Rye Elementary and Rye Junior High that will be voted on in Tuesday July 13, 2021.

Other options under consideration by the Energy Committee to increase the amount of renewable energy for the town are:

- Solar installation on Town Garage possibly financed through a municipal lease purchase
- Public Safety Building has excellent solar orientation and lots of roof space making it an optimal location for solar as the source would be “behind the meter” (electricity generated would be used on-site rather than sent back to the grid; this reduces transmission and delivery charges)
- Community Power - allows a community to purchase bulk electricity for all residents and businesses, provides better purchasing power, can choose more renewable

sources, provides access for all to participate in clean energy, potentially can develop and/or participate in community solar projects

The Energy Committee would like to invite representatives from 350NH to a meeting to discuss what work is being done and how we can support one another.

#### **4) Presentation to Select Board on Community Power**

The Energy Committee will target June 17 for a presentation to the Rye Select Board. The goals of the presentation are to give brief overview of Community Power Coalition of NH and the Joint Powers Agreement and to recommend that Rye sign the JPA and join the coalition. This is a no cost, no obligation opportunity to learn more about bringing community power aggregation to Rye. We will have a draft of the presentation prepared for review at REC June 1 meeting. Also, REC members are attending a series of webinars called Roadmap to Community Power that are being presented by Clean Energy NH, Community Power Coalition of NH and Local Energy Solutions.

#### **5) Lighting Upgrade Update**

The proposal for the Public Safety building was approved by all parties after a good discussion. Becky will sign off. There are no upfront costs associated with the upgrade. The cost of the upgrade will be paid off over about 3 years. The upgrade for the PSB will begin in 2-3 months.

The quality of light and the new controls are working well for the Rye Public Library. Also, RPL has switched back to the default energy supplier (Eversource).

#### **6) School Solar PPA May 18 Info Session**

Rye residents will be invited to attend an on-line public forum on May 18 hosted by the Energy Committee to learn about the Rye Schools' solar project. Scott Marion, Vice Chair of the Rye School Board and Ned Raynolds of ReVision Energy will present an overview and answer questions about the project. A solar project warrant article will appear on the School District election ballot July 13, 2021.

#### **7) Long Term Goals**

As the town prepares to update the Master Plan, the Energy Committee is thinking about long term goals and looking at examples of other master plans such as Stratham, Exeter, and Harrisville to see how energy and sustainability committees are presented by other towns.

#### **8) New Business**

Electric vehicles and charging options were generally discussed. Also, when/if renovations are considered for the TD Bank conversion to Town Office space, the Energy Committee may be a resource when considering energy efficiency.

**Next virtual meeting is on Tuesday, June 1, 2021 from 3:00-4:30 PM. Meeting adjourned at 4:32 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.<sup>1</sup> 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](http://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](mailto: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.

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<sup>1</sup> Many public bodies are utilizing video teleconferencing 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.