

# Rye Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

3:00-4:30 PM

Town Hall

## 1) Attendance

Howard Kalet  
Tom Pfau  
Lisa Sweet  
Carl Nicolino

## 2) June Meeting Minutes Approval

Minutes from June were approved unanimously.

## 3) School Solar PPA Warrant Article Review

The warrant article was approved by the town by roughly a 2-1 margin. However two issues have since arisen. One, the Historic Commission has said there is a law that prevents a third party from installing equipment in the Historic District. The Rye Energy Committee hosted an informational forum about the school solar PPA on May 18. At that forum, the School Board and Revision presented a detailed overview of the project and answered questions from the community. This issue regarding 3rd party installations did not come up. The School Board lawyer has reviewed the issue and says the Solar PPA is on behalf of the schools and should be ok to move forward. The project will need to be presented to the Historic Commission and will likely need a 60-day approval period.

The second issue that has arisen is the age of the flat roofs - currently 25 years old. Once the project was approved, Revision performed an engineering review. While the roof is in good shape and should have a 40 year life, Revision is concerned and may want to have the roofs replaced before installation. The School Board is meeting to discuss this issue and will decide how to proceed.

## 4) 350NH

Tom spoke with Jennifer Dube, a member of 350NH Exeter. Jennifer has been working with the Seacoast 350NH rep who contacted us previously about projects they are working on with the Exeter Energy Committee. They are currently working to get funding for resident owned mobile homes to upgrade weatherization and heating systems. The Energy Committee will reach out to Seacoast 350NH to see if they might have a table at the upcoming Goss Farm Fall Fair. REC will also explore opportunities to educate the community about incentives and rebates for energy upgrades.

## 5) Rye Historic Commission Workshop - September

The Rye Historic Commission has grant funding for a communication workshop in September. It will be facilitated by Crosscurrent Communications. All boards will be invited and effective communication and presentation will be discussed. Several of the REC members are interested and will reach out to the RHC for more information.

## **6) Community Power**

1) REC presented to the Select Board on June 14 to request that Rye join the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH). To join, we need Select Board approval and sign off on the Joint Powers agreement. The Select Board approved joining CPCNH and Rye is one of 9 cities and towns to join. *REC is currently waiting for the town legal review of the Joint Powers Agreement to be completed.*

Joining CPCNH is a no risk, no cost opportunity to help the town develop a Community Power plan. Community Power has the potential to benefit Rye residents and businesses by leveraging the economy of scale to achieve better rates, having more choice in where our power comes from, and building the capacity to offer additional products and services. Community Power will essentially bundle all electricity customers as one entity, creating an economy of scale. The Community Power Plan can offer different rate tiers for Rye residents so they can choose based on price or renewable sources or a balance of both. Eversource will remain the utility and will continue to deliver the electricity. If Rye were to adopt Community Power, every Eversource customer would automatically be enrolled. However, there will be no obligation to join and anyone can opt out of Community Power and stay with Eversource or another provider.

Once the Town of Rye develops a plan, a warrant article will be written. If the warrant article is approved, Rye would then join into a cost sharing agreement with CPCNH. CPCNH would handle the procurement of energy according to the parameters set in Rye's plan.

CPCNH will be officially kicking off on October 1. The REC needs to name a representative and an alternate to the CPCNH board.

2) There was an email asking for last minute input on a CP logo. REC was not able to respond given the timeline. Tom will look for REC's logo (Rye Turning Green). Maybe we can solicit designs for future logo from community?

CPCNH also filmed a video about Community Power. Carl and Howard participated in the filming.

CPCNH will be holding organizing meetings every other Thursday in preparation for launch.

## **7) Goss Farm Fall Fair September 18 - Table**

We can have information on Community Power, LED lighting, and heat pumps. We will have a quick survey to help engage the community and see what information they want to have. We may be able to have a demo on LED bulbs to show color differences. (2700 K has appearance of traditional incandescent bulbs; higher K values are whiter).

## **8) Lighting Upgrade Update**

REC will follow up on the contract for the Public Safety building. As of meeting time, a signed contract was not available.

## **9) New Business**

Lisa attended webinar for Good Energy/Standard Power for background information on the services they offer for community power communities.

The Planning Board would like input from town boards on a survey they will be conducting. REC members can review the questions and one member will submit any suggestions to the PB.

September meeting will be held 9/14 (not 9/7).

October meeting will be held on 10/12 (not 10/5).

**Next meeting is on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 from 3:00-4:30 PM at Town Hall.**

**Meeting adjourned at 4:31 PM**