

# Rye Energy Committee

## Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

3:00 – 4:30 PM

Town Hall

1. **Attendance** - Meeting called to order at 3:08 pm; Tom Pfau, Howard Kalet; Lisa Sweet; quorum is reached
2. **February Meeting Minutes Approval** - approved unanimously
3. **PSB Lighting Upgrade Update** - Complete; minimum of a year warranty on items for replacement and adjustments as needed; Becky has signed off
4. **TD Bank Town Hall Annex Update** - pre-bid meeting had about 25 people there; well attended; walk through; everyone from town who needed to be there was there; bids due at end of February and will be opened and reviewed; energy committee expressed preference is for heat pump over propane as the primary heating source.
5. **Community Power/CPCNH Update** - PUC rule making has commenced ([see article](#)); CPCNH is balancing need for staff with start-up costs; Portsmouth joined CPCNH in February; there are many incoming inquiries from communities interested in joining; CPCNH has interviewed existing CCA (Community Choice Aggregations) in CA and learned about the start-up and operational stages of the organization. There is great information on their websites. [Redwood Coast Energy Authority](#), [Silicon Valley Clean Energy](#); Lisa will check PUC approval of Rye EAP.
6. **Demand Response for Home Battery Storage program** —> Battery/Capacitor Systems to Reduce/Eliminate Demand Charges for Large Users - Small users do not have demand charges but large users (commercial) do. Schools, Water Company, PSB have demand charges. If you hit the demand charge number, you pay a premium for the entire month. This premium typically represents about 30% of the bill. If you hit a certain level

of demand during the month for one 30 minute interval, you pay the demand charge for the whole month, not just the 30 minute interval. All Rye muni buildings have demand charges every month.

Batteries, capacitors, and capacitor banks can be used to shave the demand. Capacitors have better life span and can discharge more quickly than chemical batteries. It has been reported that capacitors have lower fire hazard and lower costs over their lifespan compared to batteries. Presently, capacitors would not make sense in a home setting. And as a reminder, batteries don't make economic sense at this point for homes. There are incentives in place that make batteries attractive in other states, more details in the article below.

The capacitor information came from a Zoom discussion with Dick Henry and Kay Akins who work on micro-grids and batteries.

A policy hurdle in NH is that there is no program for purchasing power from third party storage such as homeowners, during periods of peak demand. Mass has demand payments – a utility can buy stored power from customers in times of high demand (rather than fire up a fossil fuel plant). The program should come to NH in future (tabled with PUC rejection of efficiency program).

Virtual net metering - how would that work if Breakfast Hill solar were to be developed – what are the details for muni buildings to be virtually net metered from an off site solar farm? Clarke Fenner will be asked to provide more details at a later meeting.

## **7. New Business**

Clean School Bus program - let school board know, let superintendent know that there is federal money available for clean busses.

School roof - Howard spoke to Jim Gordon about school roof; bid has gone out and was split into sections so roof could be replaced in sections rather than all at once. Materials costs and availability are unpredictable due to supply chain issues.

Clark Fenner - invite Clark for a more detailed presentation of options for BH solar development; put on April agenda; this will be one of several informational meetings before REC would be ready to engage Select Board.

Building Code for new construction will change March 15 - in 2019, the code changed from a max. of 7 air changes/hour to 3. The requirement was amended to push the starting date out 2.5 years to March 15, 2022. This can be hard for builders; will check with building inspector as to how this will be enforced.

NH Bulletin article: [Electric vehicle advocates see a major roadblock ahead: a lack of charging stations](#)

8. Adjourn - adjourned at 4:31 pm

Next meetings: April 5 and May 3, 2022