

Rye Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

3:00 – 4:30 PM

Town Hall

1. Attendance - Tom Pfau, Howard Kalet, Carl Nicolino, Lisa Sweet

2. March Meeting Minutes Approval Lisa needs to circulate the amended minutes to committee and update the draft; minutes will be voted on at May meeting.

3. Rye Committee Policies

We have not done elections for officers; chosen by consensus; we are not an elected committee; we are appointed by the select board; typically a 3 year staggered term

Tom and Howard are vice chairs; Lisa is clerk. Let Janice know so she can update records.

4. TD Bank Town Hall Annex Update

Hoping to find out if we can do a scaled down version of renovation; cutting out exterior modifications (windows, doors, siding) as all of these things are serviceable; trying to get costs down; public should be able to see RFP since it was rejected, but there may be a period of time that it is proprietary for competition; Energy Committee (EC) can check with Becky

EC recommended heat pumps as most efficient and cost effective, are eligible for Eversource incentives, and provide both heating and air conditioning; No heat pumps in the proposal - it was propane, forced air.

5. Community Power/CPCNH Update

Community Power Coalition of NH (CPCNH) has hired Samuel Golding of Community Choice Partners as a consultant to assist the organization with

its RFP for Services and Credit Support for All-Requirements Joint Powers Agency & Community Power Aggregation Programs and to assist Member communities with any modifications to their Energy Aggregation Plans (EAPs) that may be necessary once the Public Utilities Commission finalizes the rule making for community power aggregations. Any modifications to existing EAPs are expected to be minor changes that will make sure the plans comply with the final rules. The template that Rye used for its EAP was based on the proposed rules, so there should not be any major changes.

The rule making process is ongoing - the public hearing and written comment parts of the process have been completed. CPCNH actively participated and monitored the proceedings.

Once the rules are finalized (est. early May), CPCNH will provide guidance for modifications and then the EC and the Select Board can review. The Select Board must approve the changes before the EAP can be submitted to the PUC for approval.

Tracking costs - do we have a mechanism to track costs so far? Understanding the costs to bring this program to the community will provide transparency and help demonstrate the benefits to the community. EC will ask for costs to date for legal review and track any future costs.

6. Breakfast Hill Landfill —> Solar: Informational presentation by Clark Fenner

Clark Fenner - Senergy Solar Development

The Ciborowski family owns the land across Rt 1 from the new townhouse development. It is a former landfill. Preliminary analysis from the Department of Environmental Services DES says this is a benign landfill, suitable for a solar development as opposed to the nearby Coakley landfill. Coakley would be a great site for solar but it is a superfund site so no one will develop it.

It is large enough for for a 1MW installation. Because the town used it as a dump site, the town assumes liability for the land but the Ciborowski family owns it.

Senergy could lease land from family but family attorney recommends family sells the land. The town already has liability so possibly they could buy

for \$10 and then town controls it. Then the town can claim Renewable Energy Credits.

There are currently no incentives for solar in NH, unlike neighboring states. As communities move toward Community Power programs, Load Serving Entities (LSEs) should get higher rates on the energy they produce. Community Power should make this size development more lucrative for developers than it currently is.

The town could have the developer put up the investment to build, enter a long term energy contract to buy the power produced, buy the array after 6 years at a fair market rate, and produce energy for the life of the panels (similar to Power Purchase Agreement plan for school arrays).

Leasing the land to the developer is another option but is difficult now.

No site work will be required. The array can be built with ballasted construction (above ground as we can't dig into land) - similar to array on the Isle of Shoals.

Interconnection cost? Information is not yet available. Clark will have better numbers after study is done in June; Senergy and Eversource each do a study to determine design.

Costs for distributed generation - grid is designed for one way power flow; distributed generation goes both ways and needs special 2-way fuses; (reclosers - \$80-90k per closer before - now \$150-175k each due to supply chain issues)

Clark recommends the town acquire the land contingent on approval to develop solar array.

If town contracts with Senergy - they would cover permitting costs; site plan approvals; fatal flaw analysis will be done (is there some bad stuff under there - the site is tested annually and documented; this is not a concern);

Step 1 is to talk to the family.

What is time frame? A year for permitting; need to make sure economics work for everyone; materials cost for construction is high; looking for 7/8 to 10 year ROI on a 45 year investment; an investor developed project is difficult as they want out at 6 years.

We should wait to know about rulemaking. Clark can get more info on costs. Then EC can present to town.

Clark can model different financial scenarios - own and sell to CP vs. own and use net metering.

EC will wait to learn more about interconnection. Does SB 259 expand net-metering? We need to learn more about the cost to build.

We plan to meet again in June.

7. New Business

Howard met with airfield people to talk about locating a cell phone tower on property. This may also be a good place to put panels. They have a lot going on now but may consider in the future.

Tom has been talking with Vanguard Renewables (garbage to energy). There have been changes to laws about composting that may help us do more in that area.

Worldwide shortage of diesel fuel —> heating oil (pump price minus 50 cents)

Follow up - check with Janice on charter; costs of legal review; ask to see the RFP

8. Adjourned at 4:45 PM

Next meeting May 3, 2022