

# **Rye Energy Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, July 5, 2022 5:00 – 6:30 PM**

**Rye Public Library**

## **1. Attendance**

Howard Kalet, Carl Nicolino, Lisa Sweet, Tom Pfau (on phone), Tom King (Rye Select Board, guest), Henry Herndon (CPCNH consultant, guest)

## **2. June Meeting Minutes Approval**

Amended minutes were approved unanimously.

## **3. School solar update (moved to later in the agenda as 6.) Community Power Update was moved up)**

No update at this time

## **4. Rye power sourcing**

Have gotten word out that residents may want to use a competitive supplier rather than staying on the Eversource default in light of the drastic price increase for electricity supply as of August 1; Direct Energy has raised its price as of Friday by 0.75¢ (three quarters of a cent) but it is still below Eversource's new rate.

If you would like to learn about how to change your electricity supplier go here: <https://www.puc.nh.gov/consumer/Switch%20Energy%20Supplier-s.html>

Here is a link where you can [compare Electric Energy rates](#) that are available in NH.

Be mindful that when you sign up, there could be early cancellation fees.

Becky will switch municipal accounts as needed.

PSB has a contract with a competitive supplier.

On fuel oil use, the PSB uses kerosene blend oil (more costly, but will run when stored outside for burners.

Going forward we want to encourage the PSB to consider heat pumps, when any old AC units come up for replacement and the existing oil burner as back up.

Action Item: get a plan for HVAC replacement in place for PSB

## **5. Website review**

Send comments to Tom so he can tackle the changes.

## **6. Community Power Update - guest: Henry Herndon, consultant with CPCNH**

- This item was moved up in the agenda as Henry Herndon had another meeting at 7:00 pm in Newmarket to attend.
- Lisa Sweet presented the amendment for the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This is the agreement among communities that binds them together as the Community Power Coalition of NH. The amendment to the JPA will allow CPCNH to amend the JPA at any regular or special meeting (rather than ONLY at the Annual meeting in April). The Board of CPCNH approved this change unanimously as CPCNH is in its start up phase and if changes are needed, it would be prudent to be able to make changes before next April. While this has been unanimously approved by the Board of Directors, each Member community needs to approve the amendment before it is formally adopted.
- Mr. Herndon answered questions the committee or guests had. He reminded everyone that CPCNH has retained legal counsel that specializes and has much experience in Power Aggregation as well as NH Counsel.
- He also updated the committee that the responses to the Request for Proposals for Services and Credit Support had resulted in strong responses and that the RFP process is proceeding according to schedule.

- Lisa Sweet presented that there are also minor modifications that need to be made to the energy aggregation plan (EAP). The main changes are the addition of two new technical appendices in the attachments. When the PUC reviewed the plan earlier in the year, they asked questions asking for more clarification about how load serving entities will work and about data privacy. While the original plan does address these areas, more detail has been added in Attachments 9 and 10.
- Mr Herndon walked the committee through the recommended changes to the EAP and answered questions the committee had.
- Mr. Herndon explained that the changes are “informative but do not substantially change the plan.”
- Attachment 9: How Load Serving Entity Services Will Be Implemented explains in detail how every load serving entity is required to match each kWh consumed with a kWh that is generated and how this is regulated.
- Question: Can Rye be a Load Serving Entity? Yes - the EAP allows for that *if Rye Community Power should choose to do that* in the future. If this were done, RCP would be regulated in ISO NE, just as any other load serving entity would be.
- Question: Could this put energy brokers out of business? Power aggregation is unlikely to reduce business for brokers in NH. Currently the large majority of ratepayers purchases the default energy supply from Eversource. By statute, Eversource does not make any profit on the power supply that they sell. There are few options for residential power supply (brokers) that serve the NH market now. It is possible that an organization such as CPCNH could increase the business for brokers as they could buy power through brokers as a part of a diversified energy portfolio.
- Question: Could CPCNH get unwieldy with communities flocking to provide community power aggregation in light of the large increases in the cost of power? CPCNH has a process to join and has a cap on the number of board representatives. Once there

are 21 member communities, there will no longer be automatic representation for those communities on the board. The board will then decide how many directors will be needed and will hold elections for board seats. There are currently 19 members - with Dover, Portsmouth, Exeter, Durham and Rye being from the Sea-coast area.

- Attachment 10: Customer Data Protection Plan describes in detail how data needs to be managed and protected. The power procurement partners that Rye Community Power chooses will be help to the legal, regulatory and professional standards described.
- There are minor changes recommended that bring the EAP up to date (such as changing the tense to reflect the progress that CPCNH has made since last December).
- Tom pointed out that Attachment 8 - Rye's Process for Adopting the Energy Aggregation plan needs to be updated also to reflect that voters approved the plan in March.
- Tom King also pointed out that the term "Town Manager" should be changed to "Town Administrator" for Rye.
- Options for further public education were discussed.
- Next Steps: Present clearly and concisely to the Select Board on 7/25; the plan is to ask for approval of the JPA amendment on 7/25; the modifications to the EAP will be presented and the Energy Committee will request that the Select Board review the changes over the next month; the Energy Committee would like to have Select Board approval by the end of August if possible
- Howard and Lisa will meet with Becky and Kevin to go over these changes and answer any questions that they have before the 7/25 meeting
- The Public Utilities Commission will be releasing the final rules for community power on 7/27. Any legal review done by Rye will be held until after those rules are released and reviewed by CPCNH.

- Legal fees will be tracked to ensure that any costs are in fact “incidental” and that the savings of the program cover the costs to the town.

## **7. New Business**

Frank Melanson has written a letter to the Select Board requesting that he be appointed to the Energy Committee; Howard has sent an endorsement letter; can go on 7/11 meeting agenda; Frank has info on Home Performance with Energy Star program and heat pumps for REC that will be helpful.

There is still room for one more member to join the Energy Committee.

Heat Pumps for annex - included in proposal; the contractor has not done this before so pricing was off; Hanover has done many heat pumps in public building and Howard will get more info from them for Rye; be mindful that the heat pump does not get dropped from proposal as the heat pump will save the Town money in the long run.

Encourage Jay McFarland, Hampton Ford, to bring the electric F150 to the Lyons Auto Show in September.

Think about ideas for Rye 400 Celebration.

## **8. Adjourn at 6:33 pm**

Next meeting August 2, 2022