

Rye Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 4, 2022

3:00 PM

Rye Public Library

1. Attendance

Tom Pfau, Howard Kalet, Carl Nicilino, Frank Melanson, Lisa Sweet
Guest: Rob Spork, interested in joining Rye Energy Committee

2. September Meeting Minutes Approval; agenda review

The September minutes will be approved in November. The committee was unable to review them as they were sent out to the incorrect email.

3. Button Up Workshop

The ***Button Up workshop is on November 3 at 6:30 at the Portsmouth Public library.*** Light refreshments will be provided. Tom will get cider and donuts. Lisa will send an email to confirm that Portsmouth, Rye EC and the presenter are all in contact.

We will promote the workshop through word of mouth, social media (NextDoor, Rye Energy FB, Town of Rye FB, Unofficial Rye FB), Rye Civic League, Town calendar, Town newsletter and we will invite the Seacost Energy Hub.

The event is available for anyone to attend to learn more about improving the energy efficiency of your home, efficiency programs (energy audits and weatherization programs), rebates available on appliances, and other incentives available from Eversource. Any resident that wants to use energy wisely and save money, especially in light of recent increases in energy prices, will find this information very useful.

4. Community Power update

The Select Board approved the modifications to the Energy Aggregation Plan. The next step is for the Town Administrator to submit the plan to

the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). Kevin Walsh has been provided with a letter to the Commissioner of the PUC and the finalized plan.

The Community Power Coalition of NH (CPCNH) is working on the Cost Sharing Agreement and the Risk Management, Reserves, and Rates Policies. The Energy Committee will need to review and understand these so that we may facilitate Select Board approval if they are acceptable. If we are to be in position to launch with the first wave of CPCNH members, we will need to agree to these by (or near) year end.

CPCNH will also be facilitating the planning of pre-launch public engagement campaigns so that all ratepayers are informed and are expecting the launch of Rye Community Power. CPCNH Member Services will facilitate a meeting so we can plan effectively and access any resources we may need. This should happen in November.

5. School solar update

Installation of solar panels on Rye Junior High should begin in a couple of weeks. In lieu of a free solar panel (promised to a RJH student), Revision will be installing an EV charging station at RJH.

6. Senergy Solar/Rye Landfill update (Clark Fenner)

Clark Fenner from Senergy Solar presented an update on the potential for developing a solar array on the old Rye landfill (across from the newly built condos on Rt 1). The town currently is liable for the site as it was a town landfill. The family who owns it is interested in selling the land to the town. Senergy would then lease the land from the town and develop the solar array. The town would then agree to purchase the generated electricity at an agreed-on price/kWh and would have the option to purchase the array after 6 years. The purchase price for the depreciated array would be agreed to upfront. At that point, the town would continue to use the generated electricity 'for free' and could get the benefit of Renewable Energy Credits. The expected lifetime of the array would be 20+ years.

7. Rye 400 celebration

Did not discuss

8. New Business

Local Energy Solutions Conference is on October 14, Tom and Carl will use the comp tickets from our Clean Energy NH membership. Frank will attend with Eversource.

9. Adjourn 4:48 pm

Next meeting November 1, 2022

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