

Rye Energy Committee Meeting Notes

Tuesday, November 1, 2022

Rye Public Library

Attending: Howard Kalet, Carl Nicolino, Frank Melanson, Tom Pfau, Lisa Sweet, Guests: Henry Herndon, Rob Sprok, Silas Proft

October Meeting Minutes were approved

Henry Herndon of CPCNH and Lisa provided an update on Community Power launch status and lead a discussion pre-launch public engagement planning. The key messages for the public were agreed to be cost reduction, competitive rates, reliability, and choice. Rye will be in Wave 1 of communities to launch which is anticipated to be in May 2023. Public info sessions and mailers are targeted for the February/March timeframe. CPCNH is developing cost sharing, risk management and reserves policies that need to be presented to the Select Board for approval.

A Button Up Workshop is being co-hosted with Portsmouth at the Portsmouth Public Library on 11/3 at 6:30 pm. Ted Stiles will make the presentation. Tom will attend and introduce Community Power before the presentation. The Workshop will be provided via Zoom and recorded.

Tom agreed to draft an article for the December Town newsletter article due on Nov 18. It should mention Community Power and Button Up.

Tom reported the status of the proposed Breakfast Hill landfill solar project. He emailed Clarke Fenner of Senegy regarding the Inflation Reduction Act allowing a 30% tax credit towards the cost of the system and an additional 10% tax credit for building on a brownfield site (landfill). The IRA also allows municipalities to receive a direct payment of the 30% and 10% credits towards the cost. He told Clarke the Town could use the NH Municipal Bond Bank to buy the system for terms from 5-29 years at rates from 2.36% to 3.81%. The Town purchasing the landfill and the financing the project would have to be approved by warrant article which the Select Board would need to approve before the end of the year. Clarke understood this requirement and said they would get back to us as soon as possible.

Howard reported ReVision will begin installing the solar system this week on the roof of Rye Junior High. Tom pointed out the schools are under contract with Direct Energy for electricity so they may need to switch to Ever-source to take advantage of net metering. He suggested a phone call with SAU 50 Facilities Manager Brian Helfrich to discuss it.

Voted unanimously to accept the photo of Rye Town Hall for the Community Power logo. Henry estimates CPCNH would have a logo back to us by the end of the year.

Voted unanimously to approve Rob Spork as Committee member

Voted unanimously to approve Silas Proft as Committee member

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30. The next meeting will be Dec 6, 2022 at 3:00 PM at the Rye Public Library.