

# Rye Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

3:00 PM

## Rye Public Library

1. **Attendance** – Howard Kalet, Tom Pfau, Silas Proft, Rob Spork, Carl Nicolino, Frank Melanson, Lisa Sweet

### 2. Review and approve minutes

- February Minutes Draft - to be approved next month
- March Minutes - approved
- April 4 Public Information Session Minutes - approved

### 3. Community Power Update

The Energy Committee has been busy reaching out to the community about Rye Community Power; presented at Deliberative Session, held 2 informational meeting (March 13 and April 4), had tables at Civic Fest and Town Meeting, handed out information on Saturdays in March at the transfer station, put articles in town newsletter and Stroll magazine, posted on Facebook and NextDoor, kept Rye Energy Committee webpage updated, and regularly attended Select Board meetings to provide updates; the official notifications went out; the official website ([rye.communitypowernh.gov](http://rye.communitypowernh.gov)) is working and people can use that to opt in, up, or out; there customer service line (1-866-603-POWR) is operational and can assist people with questions. [please note that the toll free exchange is **866** and not 800, you will not reach Rye Community Power customer service representatives if you dial 800]

Enrollments will begin next week as meters are read; the May bills should reflect the change in energy supplier and the new rate (22% less than current Eversource rates)

CPCNH will be filing complaints with the PUC and the Department of Energy against the utilities as they have not been complying fully with the Community Power rules; this caused a 3 week delay that caused launching communities to lose savings; they also are not providing the full data that we need to be able to serve subsets of customers like net metering customers and time of use customers; these are customers that we want to and intend to serve, but need the proper data to do so.

The town of Harrisville filed a complaint this week; Lisa will draft a similar complaint for the Select Board to consider

#### **4. School Solar Update**

Junior High - panels are operational; we noticed that one part of the array did not seem to be producing and before we even called Revision, they were on site to address it; investors in the project are also checking for the operation and were on top of it; while touring the new equipment at the Jr High school it was noted that neither the Elementary nor Jr High schools have a generator for back up

Elementary School - Tom shared findings from meeting with Revision on the updated plan for the array on that building; there is a cost of \$550k and could be done as a PPA (Power Purchase Agreement - requires no outlay of cash) or as a turn key project (would need to finance); either way would produce long term cost savings; roof will be replaced in summer; panels will go on in the fall; there will be a presentation to the school board to consider cost, structure of deal and size of array (there is space to have more panels that would cover operating AC if it is installed)

#### **5. Public Safety Building lighting update**

Issues have been resolved

#### **6. Breakfast Hill update**

Clark Fenner of Senegy has submitted a pre-application for interconnection to Eversource (a preliminary step to connect the future

array to the grid); Clark will come to a committee meeting in May or June

7. **Next meeting time and date** - next meeting on May 9, 3:00 at library; Rye Energy Committee members will attend the Friends of the Library presentation on Thursday 4/20 - presented by NH Department of Energy
8. **Adjourn** - adjourned at 5:35 pm

Draft