

# **Rye Energy Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, June 6, 2023**

**3:00 PM**

**Rye Public Library**

1. Attendance - Frank Melanson, Tom Pfau, Carl Nicolino, Lisa Sweet, Rob Spork
2. May meeting minutes - approved unanimously
3. Community Power update

Due to a clerical issue, some Rye residents and businesses may see “Nashua Community Power” listed as their power supplier. It should be “Rye Community Power” and will be corrected. The rate is correct.

New rates for August 1 - January 31, 2024 will be announced at the end of June. The Rye Select Board will have the opportunity to choose the default rate product (Granite Basic or Granite Plus) and the Authorized Officer (Rye’s Town Administrator will be invited to attend the joint Risk Management and Finance Committees meeting where the new rates will be deliberated. If the Authorized Officer cannot attend the meeting, Rye Community Power would, by default, offer the lowest possible rate as the default (Granite Basic) and Rye residents would have the same product options as they currently do. (Granite Basic, Granite Plus - 33% clean energy, Clean 50 = 50% clean energy and Clean 100 - 100% clean energy)

Eversource did not initially provide the names and addresses for the precinct of Rye Beach. Mailed notifications have now been sent. Because our rates are lower than the default utility rate, the Department of Energy said that the late notification did not harm the consumers.

The Rye Energy Committee (REC) will reach out to the town to get the cost of the legal review for implementing Rye Community Power. We will also ask about how the launch went from their perspective.

#### 4. School solar update

Rye Jr High array is producing as expected now that the inverter was repaired. REC discussed offering free vehicle charging during the summer to use excess generation.

Rye Elementary roof will be replaced August or September. The cost is less than the estimate. Excess money can be put toward the solar array. There are 4 Revision proposals under consideration. Two are power purchase agreements (PPAs) like the RJH array. Two are direct purchases or “turnkey”. Both types have a larger and a smaller array quoted. Rob analyzed all proposals.

The PPA options have no up-front cost, but town would pay a set rate for energy used. (11.5 or 12.5¢ per kWh depending on size of array). Rye would have the option to purchase the array outright after 6 years. This did make sense before the Inflation Reduction Act because municipalities and nonprofits could not use the tax credits that were offered. Now this has changed, making the economics of the PPA less attractive. Another unknown is the rates for bonds in 6 years.

The turnkey options can take advantage of incentives (30% of cost). This can be used to pay down the bond or invested.

The REC voted to recommend the smaller turnkey array to the School Board.

#### 5. Breakfast Hill solar project update

The co-chairs will talk to the town about purchasing the land being considered. The price would be minimal, just to cover legal costs of family. The land cannot be built upon as it was a former town dump site, and the town already has the liability for it. The owners are looking for the closure agreement.

We may ask for a warrant article to purchase the land if the purchase meets contingencies) such as if the price is right, if we can get financing, if we can get interconnection. The downside to purchasing the land would be the town would lose tax revenue (estimated ~\$3000 for the 6 acres).

#### 6. New Business

There is an Electric Vehicle Show in Loudon on Friday June 9.

Eversource will do a mailing for the Home Performance Program and anyone who completes a project this summer is eligible for a \$200 credit. See NHSaves website.

7. Adjourn - next meeting August 8; meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm.