

# NELSON COMMUNITY POWER

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January 4, 2022

## Attendees

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- Patsy Beffa-Negrini
- Lisa Sieverts
- Mary Cornog
- Mare-Ann Jarvela
- Sandy Mackenzie
- Gary Robinson
- Greg Rothman
- Betsy Street
- Bill Waterston
- John Zurich
- Jonathan Pfister
- Rick Weyerhaeuser

## Agenda

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- Why did we volunteer to serve on this committee?
- Long-term Goals - Patsy
- Short-term Goals
  - Choosing a consultant
  - How to best communicate with each other?
- Next Steps
  - Where and when to meet?
  - Set up meetings with potential Service Providers
  - Meetings or interviews with leaders in neighbor towns

## MINUTES

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- Meeting called to order at 2:35 PM
- Why did we volunteer to serve on this committee?
  - Patsy Beffa-Negrini
    - Passionate about climate issues
  - Lisa Sieverts

- Continuation of my work on the Buildings Committee, which included energy conservation work and the solar projects
- Mary Cornog
  - Making sure the lake survives, making sure the planet survives for our grand-children, and saving energy dollars
- Mare-Ann Jarvela
  - Protecting the environment
- Sandy Mackenzie
  - Long-time interest in environmental issues, and serving on town committees
- Gary Robinson
  - Former Selectboard member, like engaging with people on positive social endeavors, interested in more renewable energy
- Greg Rothman
  - Increasing demand for renewables and get away from fossil fuels
- Betsy Street
  - Sandy made me 😊 and climate change
- Bill Waterston
  - Architecture and engineering background seemed like it might be helpful here
- John Zurich
  - Increasing demand for renewables
- Rick Weyerhaeuser
  - Environmental values, experience working with energy non-profits
- Jonathan fister
  - Live on Nubanusit Road, part-timers becoming full-time. 32 years of experience in electric and gas utilities
- Our names on the website
  - There is a contact page, can we all have our names there? We can have our picture there, too, if anyone wants to share theirs.
    - Everyone agrees that it's fine to have our names posted
- Long-term Goals - Patsy
  - Reviewing the table of phases
    - Patsy made the phases, based on what's on one of the various Community Power web sites
  - Starts with idea for Community Power Committee
    - We did it!
  - Choosing the Consultant
    - Patsy has started the process of meeting with them, and we will continue this
  - Writing the Plan
    - Includes public meetings for Nelson residents
  - Warrant for Town Meeting 2023
    - Has to be written by January 2023
  - If passes, goes to PUC
  - Can change consultants at this point

- Procure power supply, educate town about new power bills
  - No town in NH is through this process yet, as far as we know
- Question from Rick
  - Is this about the Town of Nelson making its own power, like through solar?
  - It could be but doesn't have to be
  - We will learn more about this by going through the process
  - Nelson does not currently have an Energy plan (130 NH towns have this)
    - We could have a sub-committee to write an Energy Plan
- Lisa and Sandy talk about Buildings Committee
  - Getting the solar arrays we have now
  - Talked about generating municipal solar to power residents, but it's complicated
- Greg asks how are the consultants paid for
  - Fees on power
- Next Steps
  - Where and when to meet?
    - Aiming for 1st and 3rd Tuesdays 2:30 - 4 PM, Library Lower Level and Zoom
  - Meetings or interviews with leaders in neighbor towns
    - Andrea from Harrisville
      - Sandy Mackenzie will contact her about Feb 1
    - Marge Sheperdson from Marlborough
      - Greg Rothman will contact her about February 15
    - Dory Drachman from Peterborough
      - Patsy will contact about Feb 15
    - Keene
      - Lisa Sieverts will research this
    - Swanzey
      - Patsy will contact
    - Asking what do you wish you had known when you were starting out?
  - Set up meetings with potential Service Providers
    - Should we brainstorm criteria for what we want in a consultant? Yes, after meeting with the various town committee members, so we find out from them what's important.
    - Does there need to be an RFP for the consultant's decision? No, an RFP is optional because there's no money involved.
    - FYI Community Power Coalition has a "joint agreement" for the first 21 towns that join, with a town rep on their board. This is a different format from the other consultants
  - Our big deadline at the moment is to have a warrant article ready by 1 year from today for the 2023 Town Meeting
- Other meetings
  - Attend other town's public meetings
    - Feel free to attend to watch other towns go through the process
  - Henry Herndon presentation on Jan 10
  - Info is available on the agenda for today

- Next Meetings
  - Meeting with counterparts in other towns
    - Ideally Marlborough and Keene and Swanzey together on Feb 1
    - Ideally Harrisville and Peterborough together on Feb 15
  - Tuesday February 1, 2:30 PM
  - Tuesday February 15, 2:30 PM
  - Tuesday March 1, 2:30 PM
- Meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM

## Action Items

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- Patsy
  - Need a real Zoom
    - Town of Nelson?
    - Library?
    - Keene State via Betsy?
  - Find out if we can all meet in Zoom in the future
- Greg
  - Contact Marge about Marlborough joining us on Feb 1
- Sandy
  - Contact Andrea Hodgson about joining us on Feb 15
- Lisa
  - Research Keene Community Power, see if someone can join us on Feb 1
  - Publish minutes on website
  - Send minutes to Patsy
  - Send minutes to committee
  - Send minutes to Edie and dates for posting

## Useful Links

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- Google Group Email
  - [nelsoncommunitypower@googlegroups.com](mailto:nelsoncommunitypower@googlegroups.com)
  - Using this email address will automatically send your message to everyone on the committee
- Nelson Community Power
  - [sites.google.com/view/nelsoncommunitypower/home](https://sites.google.com/view/nelsoncommunitypower/home)
- Consultants' Web Pages
  - [goodenergy.com/](http://goodenergy.com/)
  - [cpcnh.org/](http://cpcnh.org/)
  - [felpower.com/](http://felpower.com/)