

NELSON COMMUNITY POWER

February 1, 2022

Attendees

- In person
 - Patsy Beffa-Negrini
 - Lisa Sieverts
 - Jonathan Pfister
 - Gary Robinson
- Zoom
 - Betsy Street
 - Rick Weyerhaeuser
 - Greg Rothman
 - Mare-Ann Jarvela
- Absent
 - Sandy Mackenzie
 - Bill Waterston
- Leaving the Committee
 - John Zurich
 - Mary Cornog
- Guests
 - Keene: Mari Brunner
 - Marlborough: Marge Shepardson
 - Swanzey: Bob Audette

Agenda

- Questions for Groups working with Standard Power and Good Energy
 - 1. What process did you go through to decide to work with Standard Power and Good Energy?
 - 1. Is there's anything you wish you had known going into the project?
 - 1. What do you like about Standard Power/Good Energy?
 - 1. What are the big takeaways from your community aggregation project so far?
 - 1. Do you have any other advice for our committee as we move forward?
- Updates
 - • Debrief today's Q and A in preparation for Feb. 15th meeting with Harrisville and Peterborough - (15 minutes)
 - • Freedom Energy Logistics and plans for March 1 meeting - Patsy (10 minutes)

- Zoom
 - keene.zoom.us/j/98427113827

MINUTES

- Motion to approve the minutes of January 4, 2022, Greg Rothman, and John Pfister seconds, all in favor
- Introductions
 - Marge Shephersdon
 - Lived in Marlboro a long time, involved in recycling for a long time, 6 years on the energy commission in the legislature
 - Mari Brunner
 - Lived in Munsonville for about a year a while ago, now lives in Keene and work for City of Keene Community Development, provides staff support to their energy committee, Keene has goal to get to 100% renewable by 2030.
 - Bob Audette
 - Swanzey, been interested in Community Power for a while. Part of a 5 member team. Working with Standard power has been great.
- 1. What process did you go through to decide to work with Standard Power and Good Energy?
 - Marge
 - Last Spring, committee was set up, met in June to learn “what is community power” Dori Drachman came to speak to that topic. Looked at the other town’s websites. Met monthly. Asked Standard Power to do a presentation, then Coalition with Henry Herndon, then Freedom Energy Steve McGinnis. Then they looked at each agreement from the consultants, thought about best fit for the Town. We wanted guidance and a project plan. It’s been an amazing company to work with. Organized, available, flexible, lots of support. Emily Manns was great. Helped product articles for the Shopper, develop the survey, timeline, public hearings.
 - The Coalition agreement was 20 pages, too much
 - Standard Power had a 2 page agreement
 - People in Marlborough already knew Bob Hayden, he provides power to municipal buildings, and Marlboro adds power from their own small hydro
 - Mari
 - Keene did an RFP and accepted bids. Received 2 competitive bids. Had a staff review the bids with one citizen member. Interviewed both consultants. Felt Standard Power was a better fit than Freedom Energy. Standard Power went above and beyond. Then went to City Council for approval. They had a list of criteria for the evaluation which **Mari will share with us**
 - Note that Coalition didn’t exist then
 - Our contract was for 2, maybe 3 years, because we knew the setup would take a while
 - Bob
 - Started in late spring of 2021, will be presenting at 2022 Town Meeting. We could not have met this timeline without Standard Power. They made everything easy for us.
 - We went with them because of their knowledge of the Monadnock region. They have a lot of connections in the area. We should ALL aggregate our buying power across the towns. Standard Power made the process simple and pleasant. They will speak at public meetings.
 - We did talk to the Coalition, but went with Standard Power. Note that you’re not locked in, you can change later.

- Municipal of Swanzezy had been using Standard Power for a few years
 - Two year contract
- 1. Is there's anything you wish you had known going into the project?
 - Marge
 - Wanted to have more frequent meetings earlier, ended up crunched for the warrant and the plan
 - We considered going with the 100% renewable goal first, but then decided that going with community power was more doable, and then we found that we can move toward that renewable goal anyway. Towns can gradually increase the % renewable over time.
 - Bob
 - Be sure to establish goals and mission statement, you can look at ours
 - Mari
 - Wish I'd known legislature would try to kill community power!
 - Keene had an energy plan with goals ... but then we had to revisit the goals with Community Power. There is a LOT you can do with Community Power. Think about Equity, Resilience, MicroGrids, Energy Efficiency, solar.
- 1. What do you like about Standard Power/Good Energy?
 - They are so responsive.
 - I can't wait to work with them more, says Bob
 - Marge: they are flexible. When we were working on the plan, one committee member wanted to wordsmith and be detailed, we went back and forth on the plan many many times, and Emily was fine with it every time.
 - Marge: we were impressed that Good Energy has an office in Massachusetts Worked with 200 municipalities. Then Standard Power has the connections in the Monadnock region. They have been so responsive, professional. You can go with their template, or you can modify it and they support it either way.
- 1. What are the big takeaways from your community aggregation project so far?
 - Marge
 - Survey, we discovered a lot of support for renewable energy in Marlboro.
 - Importance of communication with the Town's people. Print, Dan Mitchell on the radio, town newsletter, talk to your neighbors. Don't miss a chance to educate BEFORE town meeting
 - Mari
 - Communication is so important.
 - Important to have somebody ready to respond at the consultant company, and that they respond quickly. This builds confidence. Makes the consultants look like they know what they are doing
 - Bob
 - It's great to see all of you in the other towns on this call, let's work together!
 - Take small steps. Don't focus on 100% renewables as the first thing. Focus on saving money and then build on that.
- Other Questions
 - How are they paid (Greg Rothman)
 - They are paid when we start buying the electricity at \$0.001 per dollar of electricity
 - The consulting work is free to the Town
 - Timing of Contracts
 - Eversource twice a year, by law
 - These other groups can buy electricity whenever the price is good

- Gary: are there any hidden costs, like document creation, etc?
 - Just xeroxing
 - Marge used Town Office for copying
 - Same for Bob
 - Standard Power would bring 20 flyers themselves, which we could copy
 - You do have run legal notices
 - You might want to run ads in the Shopper
 - Marge: I went to the Town webmaster to add the Community Power button to the Town website, to add our information
 - Mari: We printed some materials, and did the legal ad for the public hearing. The consultants paid for the ad in the Shopper. The consultants made the web page for us.

Action Items

- Lisa
 - Make a list of the goals from the other towns that we can use for reference
 - Bring a microphone to the next meeting
 - Publish minutes on website
 - Send minutes to Patsy
 - Send minutes to committee
 - Send minutes to Edie and dates for posting
- Patsy
 - Get the criteria used for consultant selection from Mari Brunner and share with this committee

Future Meetings

- 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 2:30

Motion to adjourn at 3:55 PM Gary, second Greg all in favor

Useful Links

- Google Group Email
 - nelsoncommunitypower@googlegroups.com
 - Using this email address will automatically send your message to everyone on the committee
- Nelson Community Power Web Page
 - sites.google.com/view/nelsoncommunitypower/home
- Consultants' Web Pages
 - goodenergy.com/

- cpcnh.org/
 - felpower.com/
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