

NELSON COMMUNITY POWER

April 19, 2022

Attendees

- In-person
 - Patsy Beffa-Negrini
 - Lisa Sieverts
 - Gary Robinson
 - Jonathan Pfister
 - Sandy Mackenzie
- Zoom
 - Mare-Ann Jarvela
 - Bill Waterston
 - Rick Weyerhaeuser
 - Betsy Street
- Absent
 - Greg Rothman
- Guests
 - Community Power Coalition of NH
 - Lisa Sweet
 - Henry Herndon

Action Items

- Lisa
 - Find out when town committees are meeting

MINUTES

- Meeting called to order at 2:35 PM
- Motion to approve the minutes of April 5, 2022, as sent by email on April 7, 2022, by Gary and Jon seconds, all in favor
- Presentation by members of the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire
 - Henry Herndon
Lisa Sweet, from Rye's Town Committee
 - There are "Joint Powers Agencies" similar to CPCNH across the US in many states. CPCNH worked to adopt best practices from these existing entities.

- What is the Coalition?
 - CPCNH is a new non-profit, incorporated 10/1/21
 - Started with 14 towns and 1 county (Cheshire)
 - Currently at 18 towns, soon to be 19 if Portsmouth joins this week
 - Motto: “For communities, by communities”
 - Benefits
 - Streamlined formation
 - Peer to peer network for sharing best practices
 - Templates
 - Vetting of the power vendors
 - Local projects, joint power solicitations to pool purchasing power to develop projects, solar and storage
- The Joint Powers Agreement
 - The contract among and between the CPC communities.
 - Voted and Signed by each town’s Selectboard
- History
 - CPC started meeting and forming almost immediately after the enabling RSA was passed Q12020
 - Worked with good legal firm to design Joint Powers Agreement
 - We almost lost Community Power in mid–2021, CPC fought hard at the state house
 - CPC has draft business plan and Cash Flow Analysis
- Next steps
 - Hire firms to manage electricity procurement
 - Standard Power and Good Energy could be one of the vendors? Maybe. But they are not registered suppliers and they do not provide risk management.
 - Model for CPC
 - Portfolio model
 - Not putting out the whole contract to one bid
 - There instead will be a portfolio of contracts, short-term, long-term, + financial hedging contracts. Long could be 15 years investing in solar. This is a key distinction, the fact that it won’t be one contract it will be a portfolio of contracts.
 - There will be one portfolio manager, active in the wholesale marketplace, and a portfolio of contracts.
 - This is a post-Town Meeting step for a town like ours
 - CPC will set guidelines and boundaries, based on best practices from other similar organizations
- Why the Coalition
 - Transparency
 - Energy Portfolio with Risk Management
 - Energy Project Development
 - Public Advocacy and Policy Innovation
- Lisa Sweet, Rye
 - Lisa serves on a town committee like ours
 - Our decision, thinking about our goals
 - Rye signed Joint Powers Agreement in June 2021, their Energy Committee became their Community Power

Committee

- Templates and support from Coalition were key, and very helpful
- Developed Power Plan this Summer and Fall, this would have been plenty of time but waited for formation of CPC so Oct/Nov was the real start which was a tight timeline
- Two public hearings before Christmas
- Warrant article approved at 2022 March Town Meeting, passed with a good majority
- The Coalition is currently about the same size as Unitil and Liberty, in terms of electricity customers
- Q and A with CPCNH
 - Is there a limit to how many towns can join?
 - No. But there is a limit to how many will be automatically put on the board (21). But could still serve on a committee.
 - Risk Management Committee
 - Finance Committee
 - Legislative Affairs
 - What is the time commitment for Board member?
 - Monthly meetings
 - Start-up, there has been a lot of time invested, but this should moderate in the future. The Coalition is adding staff.
 - After implementation, how much hand-holding does the Coalition have to do for new members, after approval of Plan?
 - Coalition is figuring this out.
 - Have to submit plan to state
 - Selectboard adopts the cost-sharing agreement and risk management plan which delegates authority to Coalition. Coalition will make it easy for the town managers
 - How are you funding yourselves now?
 - Grant funding, which is paying for Henry and Samuel Golding. Legal firm is working on at-risk basis, will only be paid once the org has revenue. Cannot put tax dollars toward it.
 - 501c4 status
 - Has any plan been approved by the state of NH yet?
 - 3 plans are finalized and submitted to PUC, + 4th from Rye. PUC has not approved them, says they are starting rule making, so resubmit once we have made the rules. Means Selectboards may have to amend the already approved plans. But based the plans on the prior approved rules, so optimistic. Hoping to see PUC final rules this summer.
- Patsy visited Selectboard
 - Went well
- Article published in Black Fly Express
- New Business?
 - None

Next Meetings

- Tuesday, May 3 2:30 PM

Freedom Energy will attend

- Sandy and Gary will be away
- Tuesday, May 17 2:30

Useful Links

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