

Minutes of the December 4, 2023 meeting of the Exeter Community Power Aggregation Committee

Members Present: Cliff Sinnott, Stephanie Marshall, and Lew Hitzrot

Guests from the Hampton Falls Electric Aggregation Committee: Carol Schutte and Bill Perkins

- The meeting convened at 4pm in the Exeter Public Library
 - Carol Schutte and Bill Perkins from Hampton Falls attended as guests to the meeting. Hampton Falls is considering a community power program. Carol and Bill asked us to share our thoughts about Exeter's launch of our community power program. We spent the first half of the meeting answering their questions.
 - Since this was the final meeting of the Exeter Community Power Aggregation Committee, we discussed what tasks and responsibilities would need to be carried forward into the future to maintain Exeter's community power program. The result of that discussion is a list of recommended actions for consideration by the Exeter Energy Committee. Those recommendations are as follows:
1. CPCNH REPRESENTATION: The Town of Exeter has a seat on the Board of Directors of CPCNH and an alternate for that position as well. Currently Nick Devonshire is our representative and Julie Gilman is the alternate. They serve a vital role for maintaining Exeter Community Power by representing us at the Coalition and by keeping us informed about developments at CPCNH. When their terms expire, a rep and alternative reps will need to be appointed or reappointed as the case may be. The mechanism for selecting candidates for those positions needs to be determined. It will be advisable for the Energy Committee and the Select Board to receive periodic updates from its CPCNH reps.
 2. EXETER COMMUNITY POWER RESERVE FUND: CPCNH maintains a discretionary reserve fund for Exeter. The Town needs to determine how, when and to whom to report information about this fund. Over time Exeter's reserve fund will grow to a sizeable amount. Another point to consider is how the Town should spend its reserve fund and who is responsible for making those decisions.
 3. PUBLIC INFORMATION: The Community Power website needs to be updated periodically and particularly when new rates are published. In addition, we recommend that the Town maintain a trifold or one page document about Exeter's Community Power Plan including its basic features, links to Exeter's community power website, a table of current rates, how and why to opt-up (or opt-out), a link to the CPCNH website and the CPCNH customer service phone number. Like the trifold we distributed to explain community power, copies of this document could be available at the Town Office and the Library.
 4. RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY ADVOCACY: The Town engaged in community power, in part, as a means to increase the fraction of renewable energy used by Exeter residents and businesses. As successful as the program has been to lower electric supply rates, it has had a comparatively small impact on this goal. Less than 2% in our community has opted for a supply with higher than the default level of renewables. With the establishment and launch of Exeter Community

Power behind us, we recommend that a major effort now be made to encourage residents and businesses to opt up to higher renewable energy content.

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