

MINUTES Town of Exeter Energy Committee

Wednesday Dec.11, 2019 at 3:30 pm. Town Office, Wheelwright Room, 10 Front Street

Lew Hitzrot, Amy Farnham, Jordan Dickenson, Renay Allen, Robin Tyner, Julie Gilman, Cliff Sinnott...: Russ Dean & Dave Sharples

ONGOING BUSINESS:

November minutes approved.

Personnel: Jordan is moving to Farmington, handed in a signed resignation 12/12. Cliff Sinnott was approved by select board last week and his first meeting was today. He is formerly of the Rockingham Planning Commission.

Granite Bridge Pipeline: Jordan asked if energy cmte would make a recommendation to the select board against the need for new natural gas pipeline infrastructure, which would run through Exeter near route 101. Robust discussion for 30 minutes. Is it in our charter? Lew will write letter referencing Energy.gov statistics, and recommend that existing gas should go towards generating electricity only and heating better done with heat pumps. In the year 2030 gas will be same price as renewables according to LES Keynote, so old technology pipeline capital costs would be lost to residents. Offshore wind farm could be operating in 6-10 years and supply 50% of power for NH (Renay will attend federal NH Offshore Wind task force at UNH for more info). Pipeline built for a 30-40 lifespan. Project would slow clean energy developments. Lew will bring letter back to next meeting for approval, then we will ask Sustainability, Conservation, etc cmtes to sign if they would like for joint committee statement to select board. Russ mentioned Eversource news article stating their new "carbon-neutral" by 2030 goal.

Solar Updates: Lew updated Cliff on long term project idea at lagoons. Russ suggestion contacting Connor Farm area and such for alternate project. Amy will check. Julie discussed 2011 PPA from Revolution for current array, which expires in 2021. Will put on next agenda and also have Brianna contact Mike Berman to discuss avenues. Russ will ask financing firm NHCDFA to speak at January meeting.

Electric Charging Station: State RFP is out and will be awarded to one vendor plan with 6 fast-charge/Level 3 stations along 6 identified corridors. 80% match. Renay has spoken to Unutil, Chargepoint, EV go, Darren Winham and more. Bids are private. Exeter would score high on criteria chart. Fingers crossed. RFP due Jan 24. Renay and Dave will check on any barriers in permitting process.

Heat Pumps and Hot Chocolate: Renay and Amy were approved to host 3 or so educational programs this winter, similar to Button Up. People visit homes with heat pumps and ask about them, while drinking free hot chocolate. Renay will check with NH Saves for deals/support. Robin has a heat pump at her house and will host one.

Community Choice Power: Julie and Cliff will lead the discovery phase of the new Aggregation project signed into law on Oct 1. Unutil will still distribute power, bill remains the same. Could save residents money on bill by grouping with other towns and cutting out middle man buyers. A portion of savings could go into a clean projects fund, so we can build our own clean energy projects. Will talk to Tim Roache of RPC, and research MA current actions and what the savings are.

Other news:

Dave Sharples, town planner, sat in on mtg as a rep from the Sustainability cmte. He has requested a fellow from UNH to do a Greenhouse Gas study this summer. Dave & Russ going on Geothermal tour at PEA.

Many of above project and statistics were a result of the recent Local Energy Solutions Conference ideas.

Next meeting Jan 8, at 3:30, Wentworth Room

ACTION ITEMS:

Amy: contact Connor Farm, etc. Work w Renay to develop Heat Pumps & Hot Chocolate edu

Brianna: ask Mike B about 2011 PPA resolution

Cliff: partner with Julie on Community Choice research

Julie: partner with Cliff on Community Choice research, work on 2011 solar PPA

Lew: draft letter recommending select board against pipeline.

Renay: Develop Heat Pumps & HC idea, follow EV/RFP news & EV permits, attend NH Offshore Wind task Force at UNH,

Robin: be host site for Heat Pumps & HC