

MINUTES Town of Exeter Energy Committee

Wednesday Nov 9th, 2022 at 3:30 pm. Wheelwright Room
Betsy Stevens, Amy Farnham, Lew Hitzrot, Renay Allen, Julie Gilman,
Kristen Murphy. Members of the public: Ryan Jean, Olivia Shore, Neila O'Brien, Zeke Schmois

ONGOING BUSINESS:

Last month's minutes: approved

Bordering Communities (pre) Energy Cmtes: Volunteer citizens from both Brentwood and Kensington have contacted us for help in creating energy committees in their towns. Zeke Schmois of Kensington was in attendance and a discussion was had. Renay will invite citizens from Kensington, Brentwood, and also Tom Pfau from the Rye Energy cmte to a casual coffee meet & greet next month. A rising tide lifts all boats.

Solar Dashboard: Amy reports the solar dashboard for the small DPW array has not operated for two years, according to Jeff Beck of the DPW. It needs to get back online, and we can make an announcement when it does, and use it as a PR vehicle for the Community Power spring launch updates.

Safety Complex Proposal: Renay will invite Tori Gerlt of Resilient Buildings Group and Joe Van Goombas of NHSaves to our next meeting for a 30-minute intro to what they see as the possibilities of this project.

Town Hall Reincarnation project: Julie would like to see a coordinated effort across many cmtes to create a Master Plan to reincarnate the historic town hall into its new life as a cultural center of sorts. First is to register it w/ as a national historic site, which will entail a Whole-Building Assessment. Amy has been on a small ad-hoc re; insulation/HAVC. Julie thinks more cmtes should be represented on ad-hoc, & master plan w/ timelines created.

2015 Building Codes update: Kristen is looking into 1. a possible ad-hoc cmte in combo with, Doug Eastman, SA and others on this project, and 2. IRA grant monies to facilitate. Ryan Jean reports that NH will require on 1/2023 all to move to at least 2018 version from the IRC (International Residence Code) and IBC (International Building Code). There is possibility to move to the 2020 National Electric Code too. What do we (ad-hoc) want to shoot for? Has to be approved by Selectboard, and not dampen business development. Looking for the win-win.

Exeter Community Power Cmte (ECPAC): Lew reports registering our ECPAC with the PUC, and announces Kristen will be both the liaison and contact person to the PUC et al., as required by law. ECPAC will go to Selectboard in Dec for approval of 4 policies (Risk Mgmt, Cost Sharing, Rate Setting, and Financial Reserve). Lew met w/ Darren Winham of Economic Development to ask for help informing the businesses of the April launch -he has a great eBlast list. ECPAC will create a monthly newsletter for Jan/Feb/Mar. All/team will monitor social media to squelch fake news. Need articles in newspaper. Much public education needed starting in Jan 2023. Bob Glowacky is assisting. ECPAC team has been working very hard on this, and are looking forward to a smooth launch in (hopefully) April 2023.

EHS Student Liaison: Students Olivia Shore and Neila O'Brien (president and VP of the Environmental Club at EHS) were invited to join the Energy Cmte as non-voting co-liaisons. The vote to approve their acceptance was unanimous. They invited the cmte to a Dec meeting of the Environmental Club at EHS to talk about Electric Cars and chargers. Renay and Ryan will speak. They meet on Thursdays at 2:30pm.

Adjourned 4:33 pm (Next meeting Dec 14th, Wheelwright Room)

(2023 dates: 1/11, 2/8, 3/8, 4/12, 5/10, 6/14, 7/12, - 9/13, 10/11, 11/8, 12/13)

ACTION ITEMS:

Amy- coord recreation of solar dashboard, inquire about Town Hall ad-hoc.

Renay – EV program at EHS w/ Olivia & Neila. Invite Tori & Joe to Dec mtg. Coffee w/ bordering pre-committees.

Lew & Cliff- present policies to Select board, draft newsletters, get ready to educate on Community Power.

Olivia & Neila – set date for EV presentation at high school.