

DRAFT MINUTES, Town of Exeter Energy Committee

Wednesday January 10,2024 at 3:30 PM, Wheelwright Room

Attendees: Cliff Sinnott, Amy Farnham, Lew Hitzrot, Renay Allen, Mark Lemos. Staff: Kristen Murphy
Select Board liaison: Julie Gilman Members of the Public: None Presenter: Steve McFarland from Window Dressers

1. **3:30 Call to Order**
2. **Minutes approval:** Motion by Lew, second by Amy to approve December minutes. Unanimous consent.
3. **Welcome new Energy Committee member:** Members welcomed Mark Lemos who has joined the Committee after approval from Select Board on Monday January 8.
4. **Presentation by Steve McFarland from Window Dressers.** Steve presented overview of the Window Dressers program including program goals and history, cost and benefits to participants, community building goals, and volunteer requirements. There is a virtual goal setting meeting for next year for all participating towns on January 23 from 9:00-11:00am, and a Community Build on February 6 and 7 in Portland at the Maine Heritage Center. Interested Energy Committee members may attend either.

Energy Committee would be taking a role of sponsorship of this effort and need to recruit an active leadership team to move ahead with it this year. Agreed that members will solicit interest from individuals or groups in their own networks to serve on leadership team, and report back to Kristen and the committee by February meeting. Final decision on whether to move ahead this year, to be made at March meeting.

5. **Energy Section of new zoning ordinance-** Dave Sharples had other commitment and not able to attend. Kristen reports that the changes to the ZBA rules in town warrant will not include energy items.
6. **EHS Update** – Olivia and Neila not able to attend meeting. It was noted that they will both graduate in June and we may wish to discuss with them recruiting replacements.
7. **Community Power update** – new rates effective 2.1.24 released. Granite Basic: 8.1 cents/Kwh, Granite -33% renewable: 8.4 cents/Kwh, 50% renewable: 9.4 cents/Kwh, 100% renewable: 12.4 cents/Kwh. Unitil default rate is: 10.7 cents/Kwh.
Net metering- No further movement on getting data for Community Power customers was reported.
8. **Energy Committee member recruiting and quorum:** This is Lew’s last meeting, and Robin has officially resigned. Renay will be staying on Committee, to assist with Block Grant implementation. With addition of Mark, Committee membership is now 5, with one vacancy. Quorum requirements are still 4 attendees.
9. **Calendar for 2024.** Cliff submitted Calendar template for 2024 with a few topics filled in. We will work on this at the next meeting. (attached)
10. **Other Business:** Discussed Select Board recommendation of merging Sustainability and Energy Committees. Requested that a meeting of both Chairs (Cliff and Chris) SB liaisons: Julie and Dan, and staff of Russ and Kristen to discuss a joint charter. Cliff asked for member’s initial thoughts on a merger. Members recognized that there is overlap in the committees’ work and some efficiencies to be gained, there are also concerns about a merger, including meeting time compatibility and combining the work scopes of the committees.