

Town of Exeter Energy Committee

DRAFT MINUTES

February 14th, 2024; 3:30 PM
Wheelwright Room, Town Offices

1. Call to Order Attendees: Julie Gilman- Select Board liaison, Mark Lemos, Amy Farnham, Olivia Shore and Neila O'Brien, Cliff Sinnott, Stephanie Marshall, Staff: Kristen Murphy
2. Minutes of January 10th 2024 meeting MOTION to approve. *Attachment 1*
Motion by Amy, second by Mark to approve January minutes. Unanimous consent
3. Follow-up re. WindowDresser program and possible Exeter Build in 2024 (Stephanie)
 - WindowDresser 2024 Goal Setting meeting (Cliff) – Virtual goal setting meeting was held with all participating towns in Maine, North Conway and Vermont for next year. This year WindowDressers is to exceeded 10,000 inserts. The overall goal for next year is more than 10,000. Smallest commitment than 100. Largest goal was 500 in Maine. WindowDressers desired goal for each location is a minimum of 200.
 - Observations from Portland Community Build (report from Lew Hitzrot) - Stephanie reported back on Lew's input from attending the build. Discussion about possible location in Exeter. Amy asked about square footage needed - 30' by 50' minimum size recommended by WindowDressers. Kristen will check on availability and cost of using the Town Hall in November and December.
 - Progress on establishing a Leadership Team for Exeter - Committee members Amy, Mark, and Stephanie willing to work on this project in some leadership capacity. There are other people in town who may be willing to serve leadership roles as well. Decided we will also bring this to the joint meeting with the Sustainability Committee to gauge their interest. Members will continue to talk with potential other leadership volunteers. Based on the current interest we have a qualified yes to proceed with the project. Firm decision will be made at our March meeting. Stephanie will let Steve McFarland know our status.
4. Joint Meeting of Energy Committee and Sustainability Committees to discuss potential merger and recommendation to Select Board – Wednesday February 21, 6:30PM (Cliff).
Cliff recounted the background regarding combining the two committees. The Select Board has asked that the two committees meet together and come up with a recommendation to take back to the Select Board. Next Wednesday at 6:30 PM is that meeting. The feasibility and desire to merge will be discussed. Kristen adds that we need to think about logistics of a meeting- would it mean each group has half agenda time. Julie adds that since the inception of the Sustainability Committee, it was suggested that they combine with another committee, and they didn't want to. Cliff will work with Kristen and Sustainability Chair re. an agenda
5. Energy Committee Calendar and Goal Setting for 2024 - Discussion - Calendar prepared. March 12 - Table on Community Power, Energy Committee. April -Earth Day minute- could be done with Sustainability. Alewife Festival is in May. EV Day is in September- Ask Renay when she starts doing work on it - possibly in June. Julie asks for thinking about possible visibility for the Independence Museum festival.
6. EHS update - Olivia and Neila -The Committee put up a game camera at school, and have started building bird houses. Mr. Brock in Environmental Science class which is a group of seniors and may want to invite the Energy Committee to present at the class, which meets Thursdays from morning to mid afternoon. As Olivia and Neila are graduating, there will be new liaisons from the Environmental Club to the Energy Committee- three people interested. They will come to our March meeting.

7. Community Power update - net metering (Cliff)- Tabling for March 12 voting time at meeting with Opt Up options. CPCNH has produced an update on net metering- explaining the difference between Group 1 and Group 2 etc. Copies provided for everyone. 29 communities scheduled to join this spring, state enrollment is 45 for CPCNH and 53 total which will cover about 30% of the electricity purchased in the state.
8. Alewife Festival planning meeting: ideas for Energy Committee participation. Date is Saturday, May 11, 10:00am -1:00pm. Desire to broaden participation beyond Town Committees. Need to decide if we need parking spaces for electric vehicles. Had 3 or 4 cars at the festival last year. Kristen works with Committee Chairs to do planning.
9. Other Business; Amy brings up the town survey on parking and advisability of paid parking. It may be a good time to re-propose some EV parking in town. Final draft of report was just released. They are considering an array of choices. Kristen will ask Dave Sharples about when is there a good time to get input into having an EV charging station. Report has areas where parking spots are not being utilized and these could be good spots for EV charging.
10. Agenda items for next meeting - EV stations as part of traffic study. Next meeting is March 14, at 3:30 PM
11. Adjourn- Amy moved, Second by Mark to adjourn. Unanimous agreement .