

Town of Exeter Energy Committee

DRAFT MINUTES

May 8th, 2024; 3:30 PM

Wheelwright Room, Town Offices

1. Call to Order: Attendees: Cliff Sinnott, Julie Gilman (Select Board representative), Mark Lemos, Kristen Murphy (Staff liaison), Amy Farnham, Stephanie, Marianne Guest: Marianne Gabel
2. Public Comment: Marianne Gabel, an Exeter resident from Citizen Climate Lobby. Concern re. climate change. CCL has 7 New Hampshire chapters. Goal is to have a Carbon Tax on fossil fuels as they enter the economy, which would get us to 50% renewable energy, on top of IRA goals, by 2030. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse shows models for reaching that goal, of which the carbon tax is the only one to achieve it. Cliff mentioned our Community Power program and the challenge with Opt Up.
3. Approval of Minutes - Minutes of April 10, 2024 meeting MOTION to approve.)
Amy moves, Mark Second- passed
4. Window Dresser program and 2024-25 Exeter Build (Stephanie, Amy, Mark). Formed the ad hoc committee, and Mell Fuller is coming to our first ad hoc committee meeting on Friday at 1:00.
 - -- Status with Window Dressers organization; establishing Jan. 2025 build date. We need to find out dates. January MLK weekend would be a good time. Materials received on January 17 and go through the January 24. **Stephanie** will confirm with Jessica Williams at WindowDressers. **Julie** will look into Town Hall reservation for those dates. We need to send a photo of the Town Hall to WindowDressers for them to post on their website. **Kristen (??)** will get this photo and **Stephanie** can send it to Jessica.
 - Grassroots Grant status – reviewer feedback / questions. Cliff participated in follow up call last week. Question is about the structure of decision-making in our committee? How are we dispersing decision-making. For this project the ad hoc committee is dispersed from the Energy Committee. Looking to hear by the end of June and can get full, partial, or no grant.
 - Ad Hoc Leadership Committee - Motion to form an ad hoc committee to run the WindowDressers program, consisting of Mark Lemos, Amy Farnham, and Stephanie Marshall. Need to get an Outreach Coordinator and hopefully Mell Fuller. Amy moves, Mark second, passes unanimously.
 - Signup / Marketing for inserts (Alewife, Unitil EV event, Direct Outreach). We have sample insert, display materials which **Kristen** will make stickers with her contact information, and sign up sheet with option for Volunteer and Inserts.
5. Transfer Station Solar Array Project Update – Kristen All permits have been secured. Now set up to move forward. Have been onsite surveying and constructing the ballasts.
6. Exeter EV charging stations – potential locations; funding, relevance to parking study; next steps (Amy, Kristen, Dave). Communication from RPC that we can add charging station locations to be on a list for possible sites in town. Most cost effective site is where there is a building right next to the parking spaces. Inflation Reduction Act has 30% discounts for the West side of Exeter. Grant would provide 80% of the cost. Possible sites at the Senior Center. Should be in the town CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) We should go for 4 spots, 2 chargers for \$40,000 - \$100,000. **Kristen** will submit to the CIP which will go to the Planning Board.
7. Exeter EECBG ('Jack Frost') Project Update (Kristen, Renay) - Kristen has been getting feedback on their project. Because we included Unitil as the match, they needed so much information. There is no date of funding or estimate as yet.

8. Alewife Festival (May 11th) – EC table & materials (Window Dressers, Opt-Up, EV, other?); attendance shifts. Amy will be at the Alewife Festival. Mark can do 2 hours- 11:00 - 1:00. Amy 10:00- 12:00. Stephanie will do 10:00-11:00, and 11:00-1:00.
9. EHS update: Abby Manning / Dani Caron .Abby and Dani have scheduling conflicts for this meeting and are not able to attend.
10. Community Power update
 - Canva Flyer Revision – Mark.
(Draft revision attached – please send Mark suggested revisions). **Kristen** can update except for the tables. **Mark** will finalize the copy. Motion: Stephanie with Mark Second. Approve new brochure for opt up information.
 - Opt-up Video tutorial? – Amy **Amy** needs to work with someone who is under Community Power for the video. Amy will work with Julie.
 - Seacoast Green Challenge (municipal opt-up competition) -Cliff. John Tabor wrote to Renay to participate in a municipal competition for opt-up? Cliff will say we're in. Kristen suggests having office hours to get people to opt-up and have people bring their electric bills. **Kristen** will look into IT issues for using town computers.
11. Other Business / Followup
 - a. Unitil EV Event, June 8th – Energy Committee tabling opportunity
 - b. Host a NH Saves Button Up Workshop in the Fall?
 - c. Communications: Stratham Energy Commission – interested in future project collaboration. **Cliff** could possibly talk about collaboration with the water treatment plant potential project. Keep conversation open.
12. Agenda items for next meeting (June 12th)
13. Adjourn We adjourned at 4:50.