

Town of Exeter NH Energy Committee

Final Minutes

April 9th; 3:30 PM

Wheelwright Room, Town Offices

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment; Introduction of Guests
 - Carol Schutte – North Hampton Energy Committee
 - Ted Lague – Exeter Resident – interested in committee activities
3. Approval of Minutes - Minutes of March 12, 2025 meeting MOTION to approve. (*Attachment - Minutes*)
 - Mike moved to approve; Cliff seconded; unanimously approved
4. Window Dresser Program – Exeter Build for 2025-26 - *Stephanie*
 - Build dates have been set: January 16-22nd; goal is for 250 builds; this timing should provide flexibility because there are not many other builds going on.
 - Fundraising Application for a Grow Grant has been submitted for up to \$4k; They want to give out as much as they can, but if they are short they may partially fund
 - Starting to do outreach to volunteers; Kristen has prepared a survey for volunteers but needs list of email addresses from sign-up; Survey will go out once email addresses are in hand
 - Set-up is currently planned for Jan 15 so that we are ready to go on the 16th
 - Starting customer engagement now with intention to do some measurements during the summer
 - Cliff asked if we have anyone on the subcommittee yet – we still need an outreach coordinator. The survey results may help to identify interested volunteers.
 - Cliff Babkirk advised about a sustainability fair at Connie Bean Center, 4:30-7:00 Portsmouth, Friday April 11
5. SolSmart Update - *Kristen*
 - We received an analysis of the solar-friendliness of our zoning. Maybe the EC would want to see details. Next meeting 4/17 at 12 (Planning and Zoning)
 - Had kick-off meeting – huge turnout; SolSmart provided zoning analysis with recommendations
 - Tiered criteria for certification – Exeter is on track for Bronze status once the assessment phase is completed
 - Doug Eastman indicated that most of the identified measures are already in place but may not be explicit in the zoning ordinance
 - Cliff suggested that it may be helpful to hear from a solar company on what improvements could be made
 - Kristen will share documents for Energy Committee members to review
 - There will be some training sessions coming up on solar; Kristen to share information
6. Styrofoam – *Kristen*

- Vote to provide letter of Support from EC for Styrofoam Densifier grant application (just in case) – Kristen working on grant
- Styrofoam Collection Event - 4/26 9-11 @ DPW help spread word; Open to other communities
- Kristen will be meeting with DPW reps to site the densifier at transfer station and look at rearranging to optimize space
- Goal is to gauge how much regional interest there is; Plan is to run this for a couple months to sort out how much demand there is
- ROI is relatively short (Guilford was about 2 years)
- Kristen has shared information about the densifier with some neighboring communities
- Members should like/share on town social media

7. EHS - *Abby and Danica*

- Kristen recently spoke to the Environmental Club; Amy speaking on April 22nd.
- Trail Care Day – A & D are coordinating a trail care event with students 4/19 morning (9:30-11:30) at the high school conservation easement. EC welcome to help.
- EV Chargers – The Club is looking for support with their EV chargers initiative; a survey was conducted to assess number of EV/hybrid vehicles used by students and staff – approximately 10 EVs and several hybrids. Need support identifying key stakeholders. Mike to reach out to Bill Guathier (Exeter School Board)

8. EECBG project (Jack Frost) Update – *Kristen*

- Met as a team recently
- DC Contact indicated that program may be folding and was providing guidance on drawing down account
- There is general nervousness about causing issues that may impact other funding
- Overall – the program currently has \$200k in funding
- Windowdressers inserts could potentially be used for manufactured homes, but need to have an efficiency rating to qualify for funding.

9. Community Power Update – *Cliff*

- Bill 760 has been laid on the table – would allow utilities to recover short costs from default service; testimony was almost all for the bill, Eversource and PUC were against;
- Community Power rates are where they are until August 1 – current rates are slightly above Until
- Bill about solar and net metering is laid on the table
- Bill 760 is CPCNH's highest priority

10. Planning for Joint Energy Committee/Sustainability Committee meeting. (May 14)

- This meeting is scheduled for May 14
- Kristen would like to have both committees' annual plans circulated in advance – to be included in a meeting packet; Cliff will share for review
- Is there a specific ask for Window Dressers? Stephanie – need people to volunteer to take on roles; Kristen indicated that there are some very interested/enthusiastic people; suggested having clear description with time requirements around roles.
- Sustainability Expo – seeking buy-in for collaboration on this

11. Other Business / Follow up

- EV Charger CIP Project Update – Town Meeting results; funding status

- Alewife Festival – who's going, tabling materials May 12, 10-1:00; Kristen looking for ways to get attendees to come and stay for the whole time
Ideas:
 - Hourly raffle – any suggestions for how to implement this would be welcome
 - Passport book – stamps at each table
 - Ted to share info about festival with UNH sustainability Initiative

Shifts:

9:45-11:30 – Amy, Stephanie

11:30-1:15 – Cliff, Mike

Table materials

Window Dressers information

EV Flyers

Greenwave EV – Amy to reach out

- Legislative tracking – none
- Other
- Hampton Falls
 - Heat Pump HVAC system for public safety system; fully funded through grant (from state, leftover COVID money); assessing costs / savings to support warrant article for similar system for town hall

Carol is a new residential rate payer advisory board representative for the Consumer Advocate

12. Adjourn – Meeting ended at 4:55