

Rye Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 4, 2020
3:00 – 4:30 PM, Virtual Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83560586541?pwd=RVdVY0loVm15Mzh2bHV4RExKKzZVdz09>

Meeting ID: 835 6058 6541
Passcode: 028601
Call-in Number: 646-558-8656

Attestation Read by Tom Pfau

Tom Pfau: Present and alone in the room
Howard Kalet: Present and alone in the room
Carl Nicolino: Present and alone in the room
Michael Joyce: Present and alone in the room

July Meeting Minutes Approval:

The group approved the July meeting minutes:

Tom Pfau: Approved
Howard Kalet: Approved
Carl Nicolino: Approved
Michael Joyce: Approved

Solar Proposal Update:

Tom and Howard have been meeting with finance sub-committee and will continue to do so before a formal proposal, recommendation, and any subsequent next steps are made to the town's complete budget committee and/ or Board of Selectmen.

Eversource recently announced that the generation source pricing will be reduced from \$0.8306 to 0.7068 beginning August 1, 2020. Historically, the rates have been in the \$.095 level. Additional information can be found: www.puc.nh.gov/ceps/residentialcompare.aspx

If energy prices continue to decline or remain flat, it is likely to negatively impact the economic viability of ReVision Energy's solar proposal. This is largely due to the annual fixed escalator percentage increase defined in ReVision Energy's proposal.

ReVision Energy has been asked to re-assess their proposal, and the Rye Energy Committee awaiting a response.

Community Power Update:

Tom and Lisa have engaged with the town of Exeter's energy committee as it has along with other local towns discussed options for creating a local buying group of energy, with the goal of working with an organization such as Freedom Energy to establish reduced market rates for both commercial and residential. This group is not fully fleshed out and is still in the fledgling stages but is at this time trying to garner interest from towns like Rye and others in the immediate area.

A big question is whether these types of arrangements are an 'opt-in' or 'opt-out' and how a town would manage a master list.

Lebanon, Nashua and some other larger towns are working collectively to purchase power, so there may be some best practices and lessons learned to be had from their experiences.

The next Exeter led meeting will be scheduled for August 18th. Tom and/ or Lisa are expected to join to understand more about the opportunity.

Demand Charge Research and Updates:

The Eversource demand charges are seemingly based on a 5-minute intervals within NH. The threshold for demand charge application is estimated at 5kWh of usage over a 5 minute period. This appears to be a very low floor. Some additional research is needed to validate this thesis along with demand charge thresholds and rates amongst other Eversource supported states.

Additionally, Tom suggested that the Energy Committee speak with Becky about discussing switching the Library and other applicable municipal buildings currently not using Eversource to switch to Eversource to potentially save money.

Once the demand charge formula/ calculus is fully understood, a demand assessment would be recommended i.e. have a service evaluate the draw on the electrical panel/ circuit breaker to determine which equipment requires what power at specific times/ days of the week, and what measures might be undertaken to reduce or spread the load to lessen demand charges.

Tom will contact whether a service could be contracted to perform this investigation.

Currently the budget for the Rye Energy Committee would be unable to cover this cost. However, diligence around vendors, costs and protocols could be ascertained and next steps proposed.

Planned Controls Discussions and Update:

Jim Gordon would like to implement a control system to load balance and fine tune the amount of electricity being used at a given time to both reduce kWh usage and associated costs at the Rye schools.

The Rye Water District is looking at some variable speed water pumps. Howard has spoken Eric from The Rye Water District, and will continue to monitor their progress.

Lighting Upgrade Update:

Howard will speak with Becky about lighting upgrades.

New Business:

Tom brought up the Carbon Cashback Program

Next Meeting: Tuesday September 1, 2020 3:00pm – 4:30pm

Meeting adjourned 4:17PM