

Rye Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 6, 2021
3:00-4:30 PM, Via Zoom

Meeting ID: 824 4313 1529 Passcode: 682565

Call-in Number: 929436-2866

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82443131529?pwd=UkoxdDltSDNYb3h3aWY4NG9waHJlUT09>

1) Attestation and Roll Call:

Attestation read by: Tom Pfau

Howard Kalet: Present and alone in room

Tom Pfau: Present and alone in room

Lisa Sweet: Present and alone in room

Carl Nicolino: Present and alone in room

2) March Meeting Minutes Approval

Minutes from March were approved unanimously.

Howard Kalet: Approve

Tom Pfau: Approve

Lisa Sweet: Approve

Carl Nicolino: Approve

3) Community Power Update

The Rye Energy Committee has researched the option of Community Power. Community Power essentially allows municipalities to bundle all their electricity customers and purchase electricity for them. By aggregating the electric use of all town residents, a community power program should be able to achieve more competitive rates. A community power program would also allow Rye to choose power that is produced with lower carbon emissions. Such a program would allow more Rye citizens to choose to participate in cleaner energy sources. A community power program would be responsible for the procurement of energy but our utility, Eversource, would continue to deliver electricity as they do now. It is also important to note that any Rye customer could opt out of a community power program and stay with the default energy provider (Eversource).

<https://www.cpcnh.org/members>

Statewide there are many communities also looking into Community Power. The Community Power Coalition of NH (CPCNH) is a non-profit Joint Powers Agency in development. An organizing group of communities has established the coalition to help other communities develop community power programs. This will allow the sharing of services and staff support among many communities. The coalition is now seeking other communities to become members who will participate in the governance of CPCNH. Member communities can choose which services

to share and projects to jointly develop. Member communities may withdraw from the coalition at any time. There is no cost to join. There is no financial obligation until a municipality joins a cost sharing agreement. Cost sharing agreements would be developed to cover the costs for member services, the development of community projects (such as a solar project) and/or general administrative costs. A Community Power program is self-funded from the revenue received from participating customers

To join CPCNH, the Select Board of Rye would vote to enter the Joint Powers Agreement - a contract among counties, cities and towns and the corporate charter of CPCNH. A Community Power Committee will also need to be established to develop a plan and to educate the community. This committee can include members from the Rye Energy Committee and others with an interest in energy and/or relevant expertise.

For more information about CPCNH, please visit <https://www.cpcnh.org>

To view the materials from the 3/18/21 CPCNH Member-Candidates Meeting, click here:

https://1fa6b5a3-dfdd-4d72-8ade-ac143459a920.filesusr.com/ugd/202f2e_d1511a10ab4e4b439f4ef0d73a0d5da6.pdf

The Rye Energy Committee plans to present this to the Select Board in mid-May.

4) Lighting Upgrade Update

Howard Kalet will meet with the Chief of Police, the Fire Dept. Chief, Becky Bergeron, and Carl Edin (of EMC) to do a walk-through of the Public Safety building to discuss the lighting upgrade for that building.. A lighting upgrade will replace older fluorescent lighting fixtures with brand new LED lighting. The payback for the upgrades is about 3 years.

Town Hall and the TD Bank building may be looked at later for potential lighting upgrades depending on changes in use.

5) School Solar PPA/May 18 Info Session

The School Board has the revised solar power purchase agreement and it will be presented at the April 21 School Board meeting. Howard and Tom will meet with Scott Marion and Ned Reynolds to discuss a public information session to be held on May 18. The Energy Committee will host the session for Revision Energy to present the proposal and questions from community members. The Energy Committee will need to post the information session as a forum. An agenda will be prepared for approval at our next meeting on 5/4. The forum will be publicized through the Rye Civic League, Facebook, NextDoor and the town website.

6) Rye Recycling Education Committee

The Rye Recycling Education Committee (RREC) is technically under the Energy Committee. The charter is up at the end of March and the committee is in need of a chair. RREC will need to renew their charter and then they can report to the Energy Committee as needed. Minimizing the amount of trash and recycling saves energy and potentially saves Rye money.

7) Long Term Goals

As the town prepares to update the Master Plan, the Energy Committee is thinking about long term goals and looking at examples of other master plans such as Stratham, Exeter, and Harrisville to see how energy and sustainability committees are presented by other towns.

8) New Business

Clean Energy NH is presenting Energy Week April 12-23. Howard Kalet will present in the Kick-off on April 13. For more information please click here: <http://nhenergyfuture.org/agenda/>

Energy Committee members will try to attend the Long Range Planning Meeting on April 8 to hear about planning for the master plan.

Local Energy Solutions at www.nhenergy.com has lots of resources and educational material available. There are many webinars on topics such as Heat Pumps 101, NH Energy Policy 101, Community Power, Offshore Wind and many other topics.

Update on House Bill 315 - The House Science, Technology and Energy Committee worked with the community to amend HB 315 and reach agreement on the bill such that all sides were satisfied. The bill passed and is now in committee in the Senate.

Next virtual meeting is on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 from 3:00-4:30 PM. Meeting adjourned at 4:44 PM

Attachments that may be of interest:

NHPR story on Community Power

<https://www.nhpr.org/post/community-power-new-way-think-about-your-energy-bill#stream/0>

Exeter Approves \$3.6 million Solar Array Project

<https://www.seacoastonline.com/story/news/local/2021/03/09/exeter-voters-approve-3-6-million-solar-array-project-going-green/6927859002/>

A Checklist To Ensure Meetings Are Compliant With The Right-to-Know Law During The State Of Emergency

As Co-Chair of the Energy Committee, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are:

a) Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means:

We are utilizing Zoom for this electronic meeting.¹ All members of the Energy Committee have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone # [646-558-8656](tel:646-558-8656), with meeting ID # [869-6680-9930](https://zoom.us/j/869-6680-9930) and password [321456](https://zoom.us/j/869-6680-9930?pwd=321456), or by participating via Zoom with meeting ID # [869-6680-9930](https://zoom.us/j/869-6680-9930) and password [321456](https://zoom.us/j/869-6680-9930?pwd=321456).

b) Providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting:

We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, including how to access the meeting using Zoom or telephonically. Instructions have also been provided on the Town of Rye website at www.town.rye.nh.us

c) Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access:

If anybody has a problem, please call [603-964-5523](tel:603-964-5523) or email Janice Ireland at: jireland2@ryenh.us

d) Adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting:

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled.

Please note that **all votes** that are taken during this meeting shall be done by **roll call vote**.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states their presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law.

¹ Many public bodies are utilizing video teleconferencing technology, such as Zoom, to ensure the electronic meeting comply with the Right-to-Know law and any applicable due process requirements. In certain circumstances, a regular business meeting of a public body may be conducted utilizing audio-only technology. If you have any questions about the appropriateness of the technology utilized to conduct your meeting, please consult your agency counsel or the Attorney General's Office.