

Rye Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 3, 2023

3:00 PM

Rye Public Library

1. Attendance – Members Howard Kalet, Tom Pfau, Frank Melanson, Carl Nicolino, Silas, Proft, Lisa Sweet and guest Bill Cornell

Discussion on whether Energy Committee can have an alternate as the committee is officially at capacity; the chairs will explore this question with the Town

2. November Meeting Minutes Approval – unanimously approved

3. School Solar update – This was a project several years in the making. The panels became active in mid-December. Generation can be monitored on SolarEdge at this link:

<https://monitoringpublic.solaredge.com/solaredge-web/p/site/public?name=Rye%20Junior%20High%20School%20Solar&page=layout#/dashboard>

For the elementary school, it was advised that panels not be installed until the roof was replaced as it is near the end of its life. There will need to be a warrant article for that and then the installation could be structured as a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) or an outright purchase aided by Inflation Reduction Act funding. Energy Committee members have received positive feedback regarding the panels.

Revision Solar will the PPA for the elementary school and give a price on a direct purchase. The School Board will focus on getting the roof updated first.

4. Community Power Update and Review of Policy Documents – The enabling documents were reviewed. The documents include a Data Security policy,

the Energy Portfolio Risk Management, Financial Reserves, and Rate Setting policies, and a Cost Sharing Agreement with Complete Service Bundle.

We discussed how we would present these documents and how to publicize Rye Community Power to the citizens and businesses. The planned launch, if the program is approved by the Select Board will be in April. Everyone will receive a mailer with the details of rates and how to opt-up to a different product (there will be choices with higher renewable energy content) and how to opt out if you do not wish to participate and would rather stay on the Eversource default supply. Anyone who is currently taking Eversource default supply service will be automatically enrolled so there is no action that you need to take to be enrolled and receive a lower rate. Anyone who is currently taking their energy supply from a competitive supplier will have the option to opt into the program. They will need to take action if they would like to participate.

We will participate in the Civic Fest planned by Rye Civic League and have a table outside of the Deliberative Session. We will request to have a table outside of the voting in March and will ask to hang posters and hand out material at the transfer station on Saturdays in March. We will also present at various meetings and write articles for the town newsletter, Stroll, the Annual Town Report, and other publications.

Lastly we reviewed the Rye Community Power logo and made suggestions for edits.

5. Discuss items to include in Town Annual Report – We discussed items to mention the annual Town Report. Tom will take the lead in writing that.
6. Other Business - none
7. Adjourn – meeting was adjourned and next meeting is February 7.