

Rye Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

3:00 PM

Rye Public Library

1. Attendance

Howard Kalet, Tom Pfau, Silas Proft, Rob Spork, Carl Nicolino, Lisa Sweet

2. Review and approve minutes

February Minutes - approved unanimously

April Minutes - approved unanimously

3. Community Power Update

Enrollments into Rye Community Power have begun. Rye expects to have approximately 2800 default customers who will receive the Granite Basic default rate and expects roughly 20 customers to opt up to the more renewable products offered: Granite Plus, Clean 50, and Clean 100. Rates for all 4 products are below Eversource's default rate for electricity. The opt-out rate is very low - less than one percent.

CPCNH (Community Power Coalition of NH) is working hard to ensure smooth enrollments and billing. The CPCNH retail customer service center reports on call and email interactions on a weekly basis. Rye's top questions include calls for general information, information on opting-in, on the default product Granite Basic, on opting out, and customers who are checking on account status.

CPCNH is also working to encourage the utilities to provide the data needed to enroll customers who "net-meter". (Customers with solar panels who produce more electrons than they use sell the excess power generated back to the grid. This is called net-metering.) Rye Community

Power and CPCNH are eager to serve these customers but without the necessary data provided by the utilities, we may not be able to properly serve these customers. The Town of Harrisville has submitted a complaint to the Public Utilities Commission regarding this issue. The Rye Energy Committee is following this complaint process. CPCNH plans to file complaints with the PUC and with the Department of Energy about this net-metering issue as well as several other things that have caused delays in launching. Delays in launching caused customers to miss out on savings and choices.

4. School Solar Update

Junior High - all panels are operational. A battery charger has been installed at RJH and staff are able to charge their vehicles.

Elementary School - Revision has developed 4 proposals for RES. The original proposal is a PPA (Power Purchase Agreement) based on the initial capacity of the roof. Now that the roof has been replaced, there is more capacity. There are now proposals for a PPA for the larger array, as well as proposals for the direct purchase of the two different sized arrays. Tom, Rob, and Silas will develop pros and cons of each proposal. The voters have approved the PPA proposal so work could begin in the fall. The direct purchase would likely require a warrant article. All 4 proposals would save the town money in the long run. With the Inflation Reduction Act, tax credits are now available for municipals and non-profits, and the math for the direct purchase becomes more favorable.

Tom and Howard met with representatives from Exeter who shared how they are financing a 1.7 MW, \$5 million array in Exeter. As it is structured, it may be cash positive from year 1.

5. CENH membership/renewal

The Clean Energy NH membership renewal is due. The cost for a municipality to join is \$250. The membership provides the following benefits:

- Access to the CENH Newsletter
- Event Discounts

- Name in annual report
- Window Cling (Coming Soon)
- 2 Complimentary tickets to the LES conference (\$160 Value!)
- Advocacy and policy support
- Access to members only section of CENH Website
- Discount on CENH Merchandise
- Logo or Committee name on CENH Website and newsletter
- One Time member spotlight
- Invitation and Access to CENH Member Events
- Policy Call Access
- Job Postings on Website
- Municipal Technical Assistance

The Energy Committee voted unanimously to renew our membership.

6. Breakfast Hill update

Clark Fenner of Senergy is meeting with the owners of the land to purchase the property so that the interconnection process can move forward.

7. Next meeting time and date

Next meeting on June 6, 3:00 at library; Rye Energy Committee members will present at the Friends of the Library meeting on Thursday 5/18. We made a presentation to the Rye Lions Club on May 4.

Additional topics included an update on oil burner replacement at the Public Safety Building. One of the burners must be replaced. A heat pump can not be used with the radiant heat. A propane system would require a new tank and other system upgrades. The building is 17 years old and the roof has a 20 year life. The Energy Committee will pay attention to equipment replacement needs and help to advise as needed.

We also voted unanimously to appoint Carl Nicolino to represent Rye at the Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management meetings. Phil Winslow did that previously, but has not moved on.

8. Adjourn - adjourned at 4:37 pm