

Rye Energy Committee Meeting Draft Minutes

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

3:30 PM

Town Hall

1. Attendance

Tom Pfau, Silas Proft, Howard Kalet, Lisa Sweet

2. Approve Minutes

Lisa Sweet made a motion to approve the minutes. Jay Mason seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

3. CPCNH update

Lisa Sweet reported that the Energy Committee presented to the Select Board about rate increase on February 10. The Rye Community Power Granite Basic rate for February 1 - March 3 is \$0.89/kWh. For March 3 - July 31, the rate is \$0.97/kWh. HB 760 was also presented. The passage of HB 760 would protect competition in the supply market by preventing investor owned utilities from shifting the costs of undercollection to the delivery side. The Select Board supported HB 760 with a letter to the NH House Science, Technology and Energy Committee and co-chair Howard Kalet testified at the first hearing on the bill.

The Community Power Coalition of NH also announced on 2/27/25 that the CEO, Brian Callnan has stepped aside and the Board of Directors appointed the Director of Member Services to acting General Manager. The Board also reported a decline in CPCNH's joint reserves account. A combination of factors led to this including a rate that did not sufficiently cover the costs of energy and hedging practices that were not aligned with CPCNH policies. The Board has taken actions to remedy the situation. CPCNH remains strong and there have been no gaps in service to its 200 thousand customers. More information will be shared as it is available.

4. Solar updates PSB, Rec Building

Public Safety Building and Recreation Garage solar arrays are still on hold. Howard Kalet called Paige Reif at the NH Department of Energy and the latest indication is that there is a re-filing of paperwork and the hope is that the grants will get reviewed and funded mid to late March. This is not definite. Meanwhile, the roof evaluation is on hold.

A draft resolution objecting to the freezing of federal grant programs to states and municipalities and to agencies and organizations that ultimately support Rye NH residents was discussed.

5. RJS battery program

Tom Pfau has been researching how to measure power usage at the Rye Junior High School. The difficulty is that while the school does have a smart meter that is capable of reporting interval usage, the utility does not use that feature. Without the interval usage data, we can not determine what time of day or how long demand events are. Tom talked to Mark Bolinger of CPCNH who suggested we look at compiled generic data sets for different types of buildings in different locations. Tom looked at data that may be applicable to junior high as an estimate and this showed that typical secondary school demand events are 2-3 hours long midday. However, it is difficult to know how RJH might compare to a “typical” secondary school.

We could install data meters at school to check on usage. This would cost about \$750. This does not seem like a good use of REC money.

To also worked with Revision to analyze and came up with \$100 savings per month. We estimate that we need to save over \$500/month to justify the cost of a loan to purchase the battery.

There is also concern about Direct Pay (IRA money that will cover 30% of the cost of energy saving technologies). If that program is cancelled, the cost to Rye for the battery would increase.

Due to the lack of information about interval usage and the uncertainty regarding Direct Pay, the battery program does not appear to be feasible.

6. PSB lighting issues continue

The Public Safety Building continues to have issues with lighting since energy saving technology was implemented. Consultants have been on the job and are continuing to resolve the issues. The problems appear to be software related, but we will be receiving some spare parts just in case.

7. Other Business

none

8. Next meeting

April 1

9. Adjournment

4:41PM