

## **Rye Energy Committee**

### **Meeting Draft Minutes**

**Tuesday, July 8, 2025, 3:30 PM**

#### **Town Hall**

**Attendance** – Howard Kalet, Tom Pfau, Lisa Sweet, Jay Mason

**Approve June minutes** – The June Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously.

**Solar Grants** – Roof replacement at the Public Safety Building is almost complete. The snow guards and ridge row are all that need to be finished. The installation of the solar arrays is expected to begin at the end of September. Revision Energy will manage Davis-Bacon Act compliance, including on-site postings and certified payroll documentation. A third-party company will monitor prevailing wage compliance. The Public Safety Building install is expected to take approximately 10 days, and the Recreation garage 3–4 days. Committee members discussed how power will be routed from the garage to the Recreation office. Howard and Jay plan to inspect the site layout and confirm details with Revision.

**Community Power** – The committee reviewed a draft update to the Select Board about the upcoming Rye Community Power (RCP) rate change. The new RCP residential rate will be \$0.13419, which is \$.02223 higher than the new Eversource default rate \$0.11196, starting August 1. Despite the rate increase, RCP customers will have saved an estimated \$118 from launch in April 2023 through January 2026. The committee agreed the update should be limited to two pages and clearly convey CPCNH's steps to improve forecasting and extend reserve targets. Howard, Lisa, and Tom will present the update to the Select Board at their next meeting on July 14.

The group discussed CPCNH's limitations compared to utilities like Eversource, which can defer under-collections and recover them later with interest. Eversource's current rates do not include complete under-collection from prior rate periods. The committee emphasized the need to communicate the full context to residents and the Select Board. Discussion also included solar net metering participation (up to 3.9% in Rye) and RECs from the municipal solar projects. The committee supports using proceeds from Group Net Metering to build an energy reserve fund for future energy projects.

**Consumption Meter Purchase** – A motion was made and approved unanimously to authorize the committee to cover the full cost of \$724 for a consumption meter to be installed at the Rye Junior High School if the expected private donation does not

materialize. Howard will review the planned purchase before Tom makes the purchase. The RJS electrician will install the device in late July.

**Library HVAC** – The Library HVAC system will be replaced in the fall. Six ducted heat pumps will serve as the primary heating and cooling system, replacing the aging oil-based heating system and the AC system. Propane will be used for backup heat.

**Master Plan Action Items** – The Master Plan Implementation Committee has asked the energy committee to take ownership of Master Plan Action Items they think are best addressed by the committee. Meeting attendees discussed how to interpret and implement these items, including potential EV charger sites, building code updates, and expanding NH Saves participation among homebuilders. The committee discussed the items and agreed to meet with MPIC chair John Shaw to clarify expectations and next steps.

**Next Meeting** – The committee agreed to skip an August meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 2, 2025.