

# **Rye Energy Committee**

## **April 7, 2026**

### **Meeting Summary**

Attendees: Tom Pfau, Lisa Sweet. Guest: Dan Hackett, ReVision Energy.

This was an unofficial meeting without a quorum. No votes were taken.

The group reviewed prior minutes and noted minor edits for later approval. Committee leadership and quorum requirements were discussed but not resolved. The \$250 Clean Energy NH membership invoice is expected to be submitted since it is already budgeted.

CPCNH updates included the appointment of Henry Herndon as executive director and ongoing hiring for key roles. Rye customers have saved over \$351,000 since launch, with about \$74,000 contributed to joint reserves. Participation has declined to about 63 percent (from about 70) due to no customer refresh, compared to roughly 70 percent in communities that did refresh.

Both warrant articles passed. C-PACER documents have been drafted and sent for legal review. A Select Board review and public hearing are required, likely in late May or June. Legislation that would allow the revolving fund to accept Poverty Plains revenue was also noted.

The April 29 master plan session will include committee updates and public engagement. This is an opportunity to highlight community power, municipal solar, and future residential efforts.

The March elementary school showed no solar exports, which may be explained by snow cover.

The main focus was reshaping the residential solar effort into a simple, ongoing approach. The goal is to reduce friction without managing projects. The approach includes education, a basic self-screening tool, streamlined permitting, and a standard format for homeowners to request comparable estimates. The building department is supportive and is implementing CivicPlus. A combined solar permit form could reduce time and cost. A general “standard system” concept was also discussed to simplify approvals.

A spreadsheet showed that a typical system can be close to bill-neutral. At about \$3.00 per watt financed over 15 years, monthly cost is roughly equal to a current Eversource bill. At lower price per watt, solar is clearly advantageous.

Batteries were discussed as a resilience measure rather than a cost-saving tool. They add significant cost under direct ownership. Leasing or third-party models may improve affordability by capturing tax benefits. The committee’s goal is to encourage more solar-plus-battery adoption over time.

Dan described ReVision’s solar lease offering with no upfront cost and fixed payments. It is best suited for homeowners planning to stay in their home for at least five years. A lease-to-own option is expected soon, with ownership transferring after five years. Battery leasing remains uncertain.

Transformer capacity may limit some solar and battery installations. Eversource may require upgrades if export limits are exceeded, which could add cost. Early screening may help avoid this issue.

The committee plans to develop a public presentation on reducing electric bills, combining efficiency, bill literacy, solar, and resilience. The message will emphasize reducing usage first, then considering solar and batteries where appropriate.

Next meeting May 5. Meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM.