



Energy and Environment Advisory Committee

Wednesday August 24, 2022 at 7pm

Town Hall, Council Chamber

Meeting Minutes

1. Present are: Ellen Read, Sarah Stinson, Ruth Kane, Bill Raley, Emily Jones, Sean Moran
Absent: Joe Lamattina

2. Substitution for secretary: Sarah Stinson

3. Open/Public Comments: None

4. Vote on adoption of previous minutes: Emily moved, Ruth seconded

5. Update on Button Up: Joe absent, Ellen hasn't heard any news.

Ideas for advertising the Button Up Program:

Flyers at Rec center, raffle of local business items

Q: Would Eversource advertise? Are they in support? They are the sponsor.

A: NH Saves is a brand Eversource uses; they have staff that support reducing consumption programming.

Action item: Emily - contact Eversource to pursue Button Up promotion.

Action item: Ellen - send Button Up flyer again so we can all distribute and stay on message.

Action item: Ruth - post flyers across town, library, church, etc.

Action item: Sean - promote via Facebook, Instagram, etc.

6. Update on Recycling and Compost PSA: Town Public Works Director Rick Malasky/NCEL experts, HS sustainability club

Ellen called Malasky – call not yet returned; waiting for HS to be in session to contact.

7. New business –

a. Thought on suggestions to Town Council regarding improved tax credits for renewable energy, LMI considerations

Newmarket's solar tax incentive is a 1 year exemption not a credit (an exemption is an amount deducted from a taxpayer's assessment). This more or less removes the penalty of adding solar for 1 year but it is not really an incentive.

Discussion ensued. A general interest in creating a tax incentive that is particularly helpful to lower income households, in addition to the existing exemption, was expressed.

Action item: Ellen - investigate further.

b. Bringing in consultants/experts regarding Energy Master Plan development (Rob Werner, NCEL experts, 3Degrees)

Rob Werner, who gave a presentation at a Town Council meeting, offered to help for free. Concord used 3Degrees consulting. Their services start at 50K, which is cost prohibitive, and unnecessary. Ellen has national experts to lean on as well at NCEL.

c. Clean Energy NH Presentation

This will happen at the October meeting. They have a large menu of projects the town can engage in to reduce energy consumption.

8. (In capacity as Newmarket EAC) Continued Worksession on EAP for CPCNH, led by Henry Herndon, CPCNH.

Slides are based on templates used by other towns, i.e. Rye, Lebanon. These can be used for presenting to the Town Council and the two public comment working sessions.

Some slides text heavy, may want to edit down

Action item: Emily & Sean - edit slide deck to be less text heavy (see specific suggestions below). Have until the end of September.

Fun fact: NH was first state to break monopoly (1996). This is an important part of the story and point of Live Free or Die pride.

Still need to hammer out the "Guiding Statement" for inclusion on slide 5

Action Item: Henry - slide 7 cross out Eversource, change to Newmarket Community Power

Idea: customize key points on slide 8

EAP = Electric Aggregation Plan. Use "Electric" consistently throughout slides.

Slide 10: Joe pointed out that it won't be relevant for the first work session to the Town Council. Will be relevant to the 2 public hearings.

Slide 11: Referencing the renewable portfolio requirements.

Question raised about net metering. Henry pointed out that the plan is broad and the details will be negotiated. Rate setting is too much in the weeds, this plan is about general concepts.

Slide 12: Too many appendices. 1-5 can be referenced as being available online.

Action item: Henry - tidy up this slide.

Illustrative Renewable Energy Purchases slide: Could customize graph to reflect our goals over the next 12 years to get to 100% renewable but it's hard to forecast.

Decision: Leave as is.

Action item: Emily & Sean - Slide 18: Make new slide for content in lower right box to assure Town Council of lack of liability.

Action item: Emily & Sean - Slide 19 suggestion: declutter, ex. replace stars with the numbers.

Action item: Emily & Sean - Reference Joe's suggestions regarding the master plan.

Adjourn: 8:05pm

Next meeting is 9/28