

Town of Canterbury, NH  
Energy Committee  
Date: 2024 January 8  
Location: Meeting House

Members Present:

Jeff Beltramo (Chair), Howard Moffett, Fred Portnoy, Claudia Leidinger, Kent Ruesswick (Selectboard Representative), Ruth Heath (Alternate)

1. Administration
  - a. The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.
  - b. The Committee didn't meet in December due to scheduling issues.
  - c. Previous Minutes Approval
    - i. Jeff made a motion to approve the minutes for the Energy Committee meeting on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Claudia seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.
2. Community Power Update
  - a. See Energy Committee Minutes 11/6/2023 Section 4 for previous discussion.
  - b. Howard provided a summary of the new rates that will take effect in the February utility auction period. The Granite Basic plan has dropped from 10.9 cents to 8.1 cents. It continues to be the lowest rate in NH.
  - c. CPCNH, the PUC, and Eversource are still working out how community power will work with households that use net metering. The PUC has signaled to Eversource that they must provide negative energy usage figures. Eversource has said they aren't equipped to do that and are currently in settlement discussions.
  - d. Legislation has been introduced on both sides of the issue, so this may be effected by decisions made in the next NH legislative session.
3. 2023 Town Report
  - a. The Energy Committee report for the 2023 Town Report is due on January 18<sup>th</sup>. Jeff wrote this last year and will do so again this year. He will email a draft to everyone if time permits.
4. Parish House Update
  - a. See Energy Committee Minutes 11/6/2023 Section 2 for previous discussion.
  - b. CUCC will find out in March if they won the grant. The application they submitted included solar, a new roof, and heat pumps.
  - c. They have received a grant from NH Interfaith Power and Light.
5. 2024 Budget
  - a. See Energy Committee Minutes 11/6/2023 Section 5 for previous discussion.
  - b. The Committee defaulted to the same budget as 2023.
  - c. CCPC's budget increased from \$500 to \$2500. They will be getting a separate section in the 2024 budget.
6. Solar Array Inverter Problem
  - a. See Energy Committee Minutes 11/6/2023 Section 7 for previous discussion.
  - b. The inverter has been partially fixed. The electrician repaired some wiring in one of the three inverters and it appeared to have an effect in the December readings.
  - c. The other inverter is still giving out weird numbers. Fred will discuss this with Ken Folsom.
7. NH Climate Action Plan
  - a. NH DES is working with the Carsey School at UNH to [create a climate action plan](#) for the state.
  - b. There is going to be a listening session this week that Ruth will be attending.
  - c. The Committee decided that they would like Ruth to say something on behalf of the Committee, but did not come to a conclusion about what should be said.

- d. Ruth will prepare a statement and email it to everyone for approval. If no statement is agreed upon, she will speak as an individual instead.
8. Window Dressers
    - a. See Energy Committee Minutes 11/6/2023 Section 6 for previous discussion.
    - b. Ruth, Claudia, and Fred went to a Window Dressers event.
    - c. Fred distributed pictures from the event. All three provided a summary of the event.
    - d. They each did different jobs, to see as much of the process as possible. Framing was already done so they weren't able to witness how that worked.
    - e. The operation was very well planned and efficiently run.
    - f. Kent asked how much it would cost to do the Town Hall windows. Ruth will find out, but estimated \$90 per window.
    - g. There is a grant that could help with the cost of advertising, catering, and providing free windows for those who can't afford them.
    - h. Ruth and Claudia are going to organize this event together. They are aiming for Fall 2024.
    - i. The organization recommends doing about 200 windows per event. They process an average of 6 windows per household, so we may need to partner with another town. Ruth will ask CUCC Environmental Action Committee, Loudon EC, and Belmont EC to see if they are interested.
    - j. Ruth and Claudia would like to have an informational table at the Town Meeting in March and maybe do a short presentation at the end.
  9. Town Building Heating Project
    - a. See Selectmen's Minutes 1/8/2024 Section 5.b.v. for previous discussion.
    - b. The Town is spending a lot of money on heat and the Selectmen would like the Energy Committee to investigate the costs and benefits of installing mini-splits in all Town-owned buildings that do not already have them (e.g. Municipal Complex, Library, Town Hall).
    - c. The project would involve determining if a mini-split can/should be installed, getting quotes from vendors, and calculating how much money would be saved on heating over time. The Selectboard would like a proposal with figures and schedules to use for the 2025 Budget.
    - d. Resilient Building Group did an energy audit of the Library in 2021 and provided a list of recommendations including the addition of a mini-split.
    - e. The Committee discussed how they would tackle this project and which building should be done first. They decided to start with the Library since it already has a recent audit and there are already heating problems in the building.
  10. Solar RFP
    - a. See Energy Committee Minutes 11/6/2023 Section 3.c. for previous discussion.
    - b. Fred read the template that Ruth received at the LES Conference. He determined that we need to decide the scope of what we are looking for and then form a sub-committee to fill out the template.
  11. Adjournment
    - a. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

#### Action Items

**Jeff** will write the Energy Committee report for the 2023 Town Report.

**Fred** will discuss the solar array inverter fix with Ken Folsom.

**Ruth** will prepare a statement for the Carsey School listening session.

**Ruth** and **Claudia** will prepare for the Window Dressers event.

**Everyone** will review the 2021 Library energy audit.

Next Meeting: 2023 February 5, 7:00 p.m. at Meeting House  
Minutes submitted by Kathleen McKay, Secretary