

CANTERBURY COMMUNITY POWER COMMITTEE

APPROVED MINUTES

Wednesday, April 17, 2024
Canterbury Municipal Complex

Opened: 7:00 PM
Adjourned: 8:24 PM

Committee Members in Attendance:

Lenore Howe
Kent Ruesswick
John Schneider
Howard Moffett, Chair
Tom Franco
Cheryl Franco
Ellen Scarponi
Tim Meeh
Beth McGuinn
Ben Stonebraker
Kelley Stonebraker, Secretary

Committee Members Absent:

N/A

Others in Attendance:

N/A

I. Minutes of February 28, 2024 CCPC Meeting

- a. Beth filled in as Secretary for the February meeting and has circulated the draft minutes, members will review them to be approved at next meeting

II. Introduction of New Members

- a. CCPC welcomed three new members, Ellen Scarponi, Tom Franco, and Cheryl Franco

III. Discussion of CCPC's Mission Going Forward

- a. Discussed differences between Energy Committee's mission versus CCPC's mission:
 - i. Energy Committee's primary focus is on promoting energy efficiency
 - ii. CCPC's focus:
 - **Phase 1** – CCPC was previously geared toward getting Canterbury residents the lowest electricity rates in the state

- This has been successful – we have one of the lowest rates in NH
- Will only get better as CPCNH grows and more communities join
- **Phase 2** – CCPC now looking at development of Canterbury-based renewable energy generation and/or energy storage project in Canterbury

IV. Discussed Existing Projects that could be useful in guiding CCPC in Phase 2

a. Green Mountain Power (Vermont)

- i. This would go through PUC to establish a program of installing Tesla power walls in homes to keep the grid energized during peak and high demand, and potentially even during service interruptions due to storms
- ii. VT is getting a good deal on the cost of these projects
- iii. CPCNH could potentially move a project like this forward at PUC

b. Liberty Utilities (Lebanon)

- i. Similar to the Green Mountain Power project
- ii. Also uses Tesla power walls
- iii. CCPC may want to look into finding funding for a similar project
- iv. Would require PUC and/or utility approval

c. NH Electric Co-op

- i. NHEC has a pilot project with 50 participants, using participants' electric vehicles as power sources through reversible charging and paying the vehicle owner for the energy
- ii. There is a lot of stored energy in peoples' driveways, especially as EVs become more widely used
- iii. Noted that Tesla does not allow reversible charging right now

V. Discussed Status of Search for Federal Funding

- a. Since last summer, Lenore has been researching available grants that could be of interest to CCPC
- b. Application deadlines are an issue – they are short, so the goal is to be ready to submit applications when the right opportunity arises
- c. Seems like the first step is to have the land available before seeking the funding for the project

VI. Discussed CCPC's Exploration of Possible Sites for a CCP Solar Generating Project

- a. Reviewed spreadsheet of potential sites
 - i. Note: Beth McGuinn was recused from discussion of any property not owned by Canterbury due to potential conflict of interest with employment
- b. Exploring options in Canterbury for now, but there could be opportunities with surrounding CPCNH communities as well
- c. April 6 Meeting with NH Motor Speedway (David McGrath)
 - i. Discussed Canterbury-owned property (30-acre lot) on east side of Route 106 abutting the NH Motor Speedway, and its potential as a solar generation site
 - ii. Was a gift to Canterbury, owned free and clear
 - iii. Lenore, Kent, and Howard also visited the site with wetlands scientist Audra Klumb to discuss whether land would be usable for such a project
 - iv. Access is an issue – wetlands all along Route 106
 - 1. Discussed possibility of an agreement with NH Motor Speedway to allow access to Canterbury lot from the Speedway’s north access road
 - 2. Could even be the possibility of a partnership with the NH Motor Speedway for a larger project
 - v. Steep Slopes and Wetlands – approximately 6-8 acres of dry land that is not steep slope
 - 1. Would have to allow for any required wetlands buffer
 - 2. Also need to consider tall trees, would require a shade buffer (100-150 feet if tall trees on south side, 75 for east and west)
 - 3. For wooded area, would need approximately 7 acres for 1 megawatt of electricity
 - vi. Distance to 3-phase power line
 - 1. 3-phase power stops 6 poles below where we would need to make a connection
 - 2. Expensive to add 3-phase power line – costs \$200/foot (1 mile costs approximately \$1 million)
 - 3. One solar generation project would only be able to serve one utility
- d. Discussed additional lots on spreadsheet
 - i. Lots under conservation easements are not currently eligible for solar generation projects
 - ii. Discussed any other lots that may be worth exploring
 - 1. Spreadsheet is not an exhaustive list, should keep looking for ideas, see if there are other opportunities
 - iii. Discussed availability of potential development help from CPCNH, and/or collaboration with other towns

- iv. CCPC members should e-mail Lenore, and CC Howard and Kent, if interested in assisting with the land search project, or with any ideas

VII. Cell Phone Coverage as part of CCPC's Mission Going Forward

- a. Discussed whether CCPC wants to pursue a cell phone tower project
- b. Discussed that a subcommittee might be more appropriate to focus on this issue if we want to pursue:
 - i. Want to avoid mission-creep
 - ii. Will discuss peoples' interest at next meeting
 - iii. Might make more sense for Town to have a separate committee
 - iv. A lot of interest in Town for this
 - v. CCPC members should e-mail Lenore and/or Howard if interested in working on this project
- c. Would likely need someone with applicable knowledge to assist us with this
- d. Planning Board requires any cell tower to be on Town property
- e. Discussed Bow's recent woes over cell tower
- f. Noted that Canterbury's internet issue has been resolved – everyone is expected to have access to high-speed internet through Comcast by or around July – has already reached center of town

VIII. Miscellaneous Items

- a. Discussed latest developments on net-metering issue in PUC DE 22-060
 - i. Issue generally is that by refusing to provide CPCNH with information on net-metered generators, the utilities are preventing net-metered generators from participating in CPCNH/CCP
 - ii. CPCNH's Committee on Regulatory and Legislative Affairs is pushing at the PUC on net-metering issue
 - iii. The process is slow, but CPCNH will continue to pursue this issue
- b. HB 1600 – proposed to increase allowable size of a community power generating facility from 1 to 5 megawatt limit
 - i. Recently had hearing in committee, will monitor the progress
- c. Discussed status of response to CPCNH survey of member Towns' requests for assistance
 - i. Howard will re-circulate for feedback, want to provide a single answer on how CCPC would like to work with CPCNH staff going forward
- d. CCPC Annual Membership Meeting at Kimball-Jenkins Estate in Concord – April 25
 - i. Should let Howard know tonight if interested in attending, deadline to RSVP is coming up
- e. Next CCPC Meeting and Schedule

- i. Discussed setting a regular monthly meeting date
- ii. 2nd Wednesday of the Month going forward, next meeting will be May 8

Adjourned at 8:24 PM

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 8 at 7PM at the Canterbury Municipal Complex at 26 Baptist Road

Submitted by Kelley L. Stonebraker, Secretary