

Mann House: meeting started at 7:15 pm. Attending: Curt Spacht, Michele Siegmann, Steve Wells, John Suiter.

7: 15 – 7:30 Introductions of those present and away on vacation; explanation of the goals of this committee – primarily to lower energy costs, give residents options to select energy that is made up of more renewable energy.

Curt Spacht was nominated as chairperson of the committee.

Michele Siegmann was nominated as note-taker.

7:30 Swearing in of members present by John Suiter.

7:35 Discussion of proposed Mason Community Power Milestones Timeline.

Timeframe is tight; there is a lot to do in these next few months, we may not be ready by March to vote as a town. A lot will depend on who we interview and their availability.

7:45 – 8:10 Discussion/explanation of the opt-out and opt-in options:

Should the town ‘seal a deal’ with an energy broker or with Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH), any resident can look at cost and opt-in /out from month to month.

2 options and a glance at what other NH towns have decided so far.

- Broker, e.g., Standard Power, deals with providers. Keene, Marlborough, and Wilton went with a broker. New Ipswich is also looking at Standard Power. Brokers require a representative from the Select Board.
- CPCNH, a cooperative. A town joins the coop; large bases guarantee the coop will charge less than Eversource, using a slush fund to make that possible. Smaller towns are tending toward CPCNH, although some cities are also choosing this option: Hancock, Nashua, Harrisville, Webster, Peterborough. CPCNH has a board; one representative from each town joins the board.
- We could/should interview representatives from both options.
- We could talk to representatives of other towns’ EAC’s, to find out how they made their decision, such as Peterborough. The members present were in favor of this move.
- Question raised: How many accounts would either option require? We will ask.

NRPC: How do they do business in Mason (regarding electricity decisions for municipal buildings, Mason Elementary School)? What if the town/school wants to go with the option that gets voted on?

John Suiter will contact Charlie Moser to find out.

Reviewing and modifying other towns’ energy plans

- Michele Siegmann will review and modify Webster’s energy plan.
- John Suiter will review and modify Hancock’s energy plan.
- Curt Spacht will contact Peterborough committee to interview them.

Steve Wells asked how we can build more solar energy in the town. The EAC will not address this issue in the short-term; going with CPCNH would give small towns more possibilities/help in adding renewable energy locally, as the coop puts aside funds for such projects.

Next meeting date will depend on our contact with Peterborough, although the next scheduled (default) date is Monday, August 28, at 7 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20.

~ Michele Siegmann