



Local Energy Committee Minutes September 20, 2023

6 – 7:45 PM, Nesmith Library & ZOOM

1. Meeting called to order at 6:04 PM

Attendees: Allen Reed, Swapnil Saket, Pat Manzo, and Mark Kovacs in Conference Room; John Gage and Kyle Gschwend via ZOOM.

2. Minutes of September 13, 2023, approved: 6-0

3. Old Business

a. Streetlighting Upgrade Status – J. Gage

The LEC had recommended to the Town Administrator that a proposal for the upgrading of the Eversource-controlled streetlights be issued consistent with a draft RFP provided by Brian McCarthy. The LEC had also recommended that the upgrading of the Liberty Utilities proceed having received a Liberty Utilities quotation some time ago. Mr. McCarthy has decided to issue two RFP's, one for each of the two utilities controlling Windham streetlights. The LEC is prepared to assist the Town in evaluating the resulting proposals when they are received.

b. Community Power Discussion – Allen Reed

Following last week's presentation by Standard Power, Allen Reed assembled an evaluation spreadsheet and distributed to LEC members to assess the relative capabilities of Standard Power and the NH Community Power Coalition. The Committee made an initial assessment of each

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provider, but also developed some additional questions for the Coalition; it has been several months since the Coalition addressed the LEC. These questions include:

What are their fees for supporting Windham during the establishment of a Community Power Program and what are their fees once the Program is in operation?

How frequently do their electricity rates change?

Can the Coalition support Windham immediately with a goal of having a Plan in place for the Town Meeting vote in mid-March 2024?

Final evaluations will await the Coalition responses.

- c. Preparation for BOS presentation requesting establishment of a Community Power Aggregation Committee – A. Reed

Allen will prepare and deliver this presentation to the Board of Selectmen on October 2, 2024. The Committee agreed to recommend that the LEC constitute the Community Power Aggregation Committee. If the BOS should reject this recommendation, the LEC plans to recommend the Community Power Aggregation Committee be composed of, at least, 3 LEC members, a member of the Board of Selectmen and a member of the Windham School Committee, and, if desired by the BOS, a member of the public.

4. New Business

- a. Response to NH Department of Energy (DOE) request for comment on improvements and potential changes to Renewable Energy Programs. – M. Kovacs

The Committee agreed to submit comments in three areas by the September 29 deadline. John Gage will generate a response urging the DOE to expand programs more closely resembling those of neighboring states which are

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more aggressively supporting renewable energy. Pat Manzo will generate a response urging that third-party electricity suppliers be required to support full net-metering in the same manner as a default supplier. Swapnil Saket will urge the DOE to expand its support of HVAC electrification by including rebates for installation of heat pumps applying air-air, air-water and air-ground technologies.

5. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM (6-0)

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