

Present: Mark Bolinger; Matt Brown; Scott Nichols; Mike Novello; Jim Nourse; Dan O'Hara; Kevin Sahr

1. Approve the draft minutes from our last meeting.
Kevin moved; Scott second. Motion approved.
2. Pearl Dimick Weatherization Event, 11/28/2018
Mark and Matt attended the Pearl Dimick weatherization event. John Heath from COVER presented various means of home energy audits and weatherization equipment and supplies. COVER is willing to do this work, optimally with volunteers from Lyme assisting. The first challenge is getting those residents who currently receive fuel assistance to apply for an audit. Matt posed the question of whether the Energy Committee could choose a future date to gather volunteers to work with COVER on these weatherization projects. COVER apparently does this in fall and early winter. There was discussion about whether the Pearl Dimick committee could establish some minimal requirements, such as having an audit completed, for receiving fuel assistance. Suggestion was raised that we network with Community Care of Lyme to work on getting folks signed up. Committee will let Pearl Dimick folks know we are willing to assist.
3. SWAN Grants
The decision was made to submit the proposal to fund PV panels on the Converse Library. Mark explained why he felt the two other proposals were not feasible at this time: (a) a proposal to support a community solar program entailed significant research and would require a timeline too far in the future to meet the criteria of the Swan grants; and (b) a proposal to build an EV (electric vehicle) solar charging station was complicated by the fact that the Park & Ride lot is owned by state. The deadline for proposal submission is January 15, 2019. We still need a letter of support from Library Trustees. Dan will follow up with Judy Russell.

We discussed the fact that the Library does not currently have a back-up generator, and that batteries might be an alternative to consider in the future.
4. Clean Energy NH, formerly the NH Sustainable Energy Association
Mark received an email from Henry Herndon, the director of their Local Energy Solutions, regarding municipal memberships. Mark will forward the email to members for discussion at the next meeting.
5. Upcoming NH Legislation
Mike offered that he is reviewing the language of legislation that is scheduled to be presented in this session of the legislature and, if there are additional items that we would like included, to send those on to him. He reported that the 1-megawatt limit on net-metering is likely to be changed to 5-megawatts. There was a discussion on the

current loosely organized disbursement of monies collected by net-metering as right now Eversource designates one recipient and trusts that entity to equitably distribute the monies. The advantage to this process may be that, for example, a community solar program might be able to disburse these monies on the basis of financial need as opposed to strictly equal shares. Scott asked whether proposed legislation included language adopted in the state's community solar zoning regulations that might allow more flexibility in community renewable systems, for example allowing community solar systems to be erected in areas zoned as residential.

6. Other Business

Scott raised the possibility of purchasing mini-split heat pumps for the library, especially if PV panels are installed.

7. Ready For 100 (RF100).

Jim presented a proposal that the Energy Committee, or a sub-group, embrace the Sierra Club's Ready For 100 campaign to move the town of Lyme to adopt clean, renewable energy systems that would provide 100% of our electricity by 2030 and for heating and transportation by 2050.

The initial goal of this campaign would be to have the Town pass a warrant article expressing a commitment to these goals. As an example, here is Warrant Article #23, which the Town of Hanover passed at the Town Meeting on May 9, 2017:

"To see if the Town will vote to join the "Ready for 100 Action" campaign, thereby committing to a goal of 100% reliance on renewable sources of electricity by 2030 and renewable sources of fuel for heating and transportation by 2050. Joining the "Ready for 100 Action" campaign implies that the Town of Hanover will lead the community in initiatives designed to help local institutions, businesses and residents transition to 100% renewable sources of electricity and fuel oil. The Town has begun by investing in energy efficiency and renewable electricity generation for Town facilities and will follow by transitioning to vehicles and heating systems fueled by renewable sources."

A lengthy discussion followed, and these minutes highlight the major discussion points.

(a) The Committee embraced the overall vision that the Town needs to move towards energy systems and infrastructure that rely 100% on clean, renewable energy. The sooner we begin taking steps, however small, to realize that goal, the smoother the eventual transition will be.

(b) Questions were raised about the advantages and disadvantages of adopting a campaign organized by the national Sierra Club. What is required of the Town if we join this campaign? Will we encounter some resistance in town to the Sierra Club brand?

Jim distributed copies of the RF100 Campaign Principles, the Jemez Principles, a suggested script that the Committee might follow, and a Sierra Club brochure that highlights individual cities and towns that have successfully embraced the RF100 campaign. There is no financial requirement to adopt this campaign. The principles seem to be suggested guidelines on how to organize this effort, and underscore a town's commitment to a process that listens to every resident and business, that focuses on the ground-up organizing, and that advances proposals that are cognizant of equitable and accessible, financially prudent and voluntary.

The advantages to adopting the RF100 campaign is access to existing guidelines and documents that organize the campaign, to an ever-increasing database of cities and towns across the country who are currently implementing work towards these goals, the assistance of a Sierra Club staff member, and the potential for grant money to help in the educational piece leading up to the Town vote.

The sense of the Committee was that a majority of town voters would support the overall goal and see the advantages to joining the RF100 campaign, especially after a successful community organizing initiative.

The campaign would target the 2020 Town Meeting to present the warrant article for consideration.

Committee members offered that many of the initiatives we have pursued (PV on town offices, lighting upgrades in Town Garage, Solarize and Weatherize Lyme campaigns) are examples of similar initiatives that a RF100 campaign might propose. We are, in addition, charged with rewriting the Energy section for the new Town Master Plan and that this endeavor, which shapes the future direction the Town moves in, would be a focal point of this campaign.

The question remaining is whether the Energy Committee should take on the organizing and follow-through of a RF100 campaign, or whether it made more sense to establish a separate town group to take charge. The Plainfield and Cornish Energy Committees have assumed that responsibility and Jim will arrange for representatives from those committees to discuss the time commitments required and other ramifications for their committee work with the Energy Committee.

Mark offered that the Committee's charter allows us to add two more members. It might be that those additional members are chosen from the community based on their commitment to a RF100 campaign. The question was raised whether a committee member has to be a Town resident or whether we could enlist a Dartmouth College or Hanover High School student to join the Committee. Jim asked committee members to forward to him names of residents that might be interested.

The Committee will continue to discuss the specific organizational details of adopting the RF100 campaign, but there is support for pursuing these goals.

Scott moved to adjourn; Kevin seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, February 11, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Nourse