

LEAC Meeting; December 13, 2022
Converse Library, 3:30p

Minutes

Members in attendance: Maureen Byrne, James Graham. Jim Nourse, Hebe Quinton
Guests via Zoom: Ava Ori and Darby Waller, Dartmouth Energy Alliance

The meeting was called to order at 3:37 p.m. Introductions of two members of the Dartmouth Energy Alliance team which is assisting our committee, Ava Ori and Darby Waller, were made.

Jim Nourse nominated James Graham for the position of Chair; Maureen Byrne seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Committee discussed the Joint Powers Agreement, which is required to be signed by our Select Board in order to begin the process of joining the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH). The level of detail in the Joint Powers Agreement is significant, and the committee is still working its way through its entirety. We agreed that when we ask the Select Board to sign the Joint Powers Agreement, we will need to have whittled down those pages to a single, concise sheet that includes the reasons for joining CPCNH as well as the major points of the JPA.

James and Ava confirmed that their understanding of a signed JP A is that it is non-binding, but will allow us to tap into the many services CPCNH offers to assist us in writing the Lyme Electric Aggregation Plan. While there is no cost to the Town for signing the Joint Powers Agreement, there are likely costs to accessing CPCNH services. Ava has offered to find out what that menu of services and their costs is. We also acknowledge that the Select Board may ask the town counsel to review, and that will likely have a cost.

Committee discussed a timeline for our initiative. We decided that we would organize our efforts to seek Select Board approval to sign the Joint Powers Agreement, but that we will wait until Town Meeting, March, 2024, to bring the final joining of CPCNH for a vote. This will give us a year of hard data on CPCNH rates, its renewable portfolio, and the logistical nuts and bolts that towns experience.

Ava shared a slide deck that Dartmouth Energy Alliance had created specifically for LEAC. It will be placed in our shared Google drive for review by committee members.

James made the point that an initial step after the Joint Powers Agreement has been signed. And we are able to access the CPCNH services is that LEAC needs to notify the NH Public Utilities Commission that we are an active electric aggregation committee. Ten days after that notification we can ask Eversource and the NH Electric Cooperative for the consumption and billing data that we will need to populate our Electric Aggregation Plan.

Don Kreis, the NH Consumer Advocate, was mentioned as someone who might be invited to speak at a public education event.

James will check with Dina about the restrictions on informal discussions among committee members and the sharing of information. Currently we understand that information sharing should be one way – a member to James, James can share information with the group, but the group cannot discuss or make any decisions outside of a formal warned meeting.

James will ask Dina to place on the Select Board agenda for Thursday, January 19, to request that the Select Board sign the Joint Powers Agreement.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, January 10, at 3:00 p.m. in the community room of the Converse Library.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

For the committee,
Jim Nourse