

## Minutes

**Members present:** James Graham, Jim Nourse, Hebe Quinton, Maureen Byrne (via Zoom), and guests from the Dartmouth Energy Alliance: Alphonso Bradham, Ava Ori, and Darby Waller

James Graham called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m. Meeting was in person; one member attended via Zoom.

1. **Minutes approved:** Hebe Quinton moved; Jim Nourse seconded; committee unanimously approved the minutes of December 13, 2022.
2. **Discussion of presentation to Select Board.** James delivered a “dry run” of his presentation to the Select Board scheduled for Thursday, January 26, and asked those in attendance for feedback. The committee thanked James for an excellent presentation. The consensus of the committee was to highlight the following: (a) the passing by the Town of Warrant article 22 at the March, 2020, Town Meeting (see below); (b) the history of the RSA making community power aggregation possible in NH, (c) the basic premise of community power, stressing the “opt out” nature of NH’s law; (d) a brief explanation of a customer’s electric bill – the supply will be generated by the community power entity, the distribution will remain the responsibility of the specific electric utility, e.g. Eversource, NH Electric Coop; (e) the request that the Select Board sign CPCNH’s Joint Powers Agreement, and the simultaneous caveat that this comes with no commitment, legal or financial, for Lyme to actually become a member of CPCNH; and (f) a concluding statement that the signing of the Joint Powers Agreement simply allows LEAC to take advantage of the resources that CPCNH will provide as we investigate more thoroughly the benefits, costs and questions of joining a community power effort in order to make a subsequent recommendation to the Select Board.

The presentation will provide the Select Board with a timeline of the steps to program approval, stressing that a town vote is required to join CPCNH and the earliest that a vote might occur would be at Town Meeting 2024, as well as a handout that answers the basic questions about community power that we anticipate. The Dartmouth Energy Alliance has offered to put together drafts of each for our review.

3. **Interconnections.** The committee discussed the various renewable energy proposals that other groups are working on and what the implications might be for community power acceptance. Some members have been approached by community members who have strong feelings on these projects. Jim reported that the Energy Committee is seeking to bring together the Planning Board, LEAC and the Energy Committee to discuss the broader question of how the Town coordinates its plan to achieve 100% reliance of clean renewable energy for electricity by 2030 and for heating and transportation by 2050. Members of the committee expressed an interest in attending such a meeting.

**The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m. Next meeting: Tuesday, January 24 at 4 p.m.**