



TOWN OF PEMBROKE

Town Hall ~ 311 Pembroke Street, Pembroke, New Hampshire 03275 Tel: 603-485-4747

Pembroke Energy Committee

September 7th, 2021

7:00 PM

1. Call to order & attendance
2. Review and acceptance of August 30th, 2021 minutes
3. Meeting with Bob Hayden of Standard Power
4. Any other business
5. Adjournment

Minutes of the meeting

Meeting started at 19:00 eastern time—in person.

In attendance: Pentti Aalto, Jackie Wengenroth, Richard Wengenroth, JJ Smith, Matt Miller, Karen Yeaton

Visitors: Bob Hayden--Standard Power

The live stream camera was turned on.

Richard opened the meeting at 19:05

August 30 Meeting notes reviewed: Motion made to accept the August 30 meeting minutes with amendment to correct spelling for Pentti Aalto--and they were accepted.

Short discussion on meeting minutes

Sharing the meeting minutes on Google Docs is working. It is confirmed that a copy of the minutes are being uploaded onto the town hall website, although currently 1 month behind (Aug 30 meeting minutes are not yet uploaded). Additionally, we would like to create a location for an editable google doc archive that is not one of Pembroke Energy Committee (PEC) member's personal google drive account. Consider this a hanging action item that was not assigned or given a "complete by" date.

Bob Hayden presents the Standard Power/Good Energy Community Power offering

Note: a lot of the details are the same as the July 20, 2021 webinar on Standard Power/Good Energy (SP/GE) community power offering. That meeting was documented in the August 30, 2021 PEC meeting minutes. The following notes will mostly cover the new content from September 7 discussion and not repeat much of the previously documented content.

- 1) High level overview: Community Power enables communities to buy power in bulk. Utility keeps the role of electricity delivery. A community power plan enables communities to have more input on energy sourcing following their priorities.
- 2) There are numerous benefits
 - a) Competitive rates can happen, but are not guaranteed
 - b) Local control of town priorities and engagement with community power. Bob recommends that we form a community power committee in the near future and begin conducting some public surveys to gain insights into the town's energy ambitions and priorities.
 - i) A recommended community power committee composition would include two members of PEC, two town employees, and two members of the community at large.
 - c) Price stability--there was some discussion about what price stability means, what are normal expected price fluctuations, how would we know if power offerings from generators are a good price, etc? Bob did not have a specific answer, but explained that SP/GE have the competencies and experience to determine those things for a town and to advise the town.
 - d) Consumer protections
 - e) Renewable energy uptake by town
 - f) Energy planning (conservation)
 - g) Innovative local programs--this is in the form of a living document that reflects the Town's desires and plans.
 - h) Energy education and awareness--getting community buy-in and engagement is critical and SP/GE would invest time and effort to help make this happen.
- 3) The Standard Power / Good Energy community power programs have saved a total of \$80 million across all New England over the past 10 years. Bob did not know what % that was of the total electric power purchase within the same geographical scope and timeframe.
- 4) Discussion point about SP/GE Group Net Metering mechanism. These notes are my summary, and I (Matt Miller) am not able to explain the SP/GE net metering offering at

this time. The purpose of net metering is to help with the proliferation of renewable energy.

- 5) It was discussed whether a town must channel 100% of its power demand through a SP/GE power purchase if it does a Community Power Plan and power purchases with SP/GE. It is not a requirement, although SP/GE would like to see a town commit as close to its full power demand to its program.
- 6) SP/GE does not develop local power projects. They will consult for a town on local power projects, they will work to help a town attract capital or bonding or become bondable.
- 7) Lots of discussion about opt-in / opt-out.
 - a) As per RSA 53-E.1, any individual who is currently served by the default electricity supplier will be automatically enrolled into community power program. They will have the option of selecting any of the community power program offerings, or to opt-out and stay with their current utility energy supply.
 - b) Any individual who already has their own non-default electricity supply will be allowed to opt-in to community power, but will not automatically be enrolled.
 - c) There are no penalties or cancellation fees.
 - d) It is possible for individuals to opt-in and opt-out multiple times during a single electric contract cycle. For example, if SP/GE purchased a 4-year supply of fixed cost electric power for Pembroke, any individual may opt out after any amount of time (say 3 months), then rejoin after any amount of time (say 2 months after that), and continue to opt-in and -out based upon whatever their motivation. There is no rule prohibiting that, although it is very inefficient to do it more than one time. There is a cost to SP/GE directly for customers opting in and out. If there is a significant number of customers who opt-in and out too frequently during a single electricity procurement period, that behavior may cause Pembroke to become an unattractive client for SP/GE.
- 8) Risk management--SP/GE do not want their town clients to feel any hedge and price risk. They only use fixed price electricity contracts. They work with their suppliers so that their suppliers take all the risk of electric power price volatility.
- 9) Question of how much manpower does SP/GE invest to help a town go from interested in Community Power to having an accepted, approved Community Power Plan and able to buy electricity supply contracts? Bob did not have a precise number, it is not something they track, but estimated it was a couple hundred manhours per town.
- 10) SP/GE has a simple and transparent fee for service--they charge 0.1 cent service fee for every KWhr purchased from a 3rd party generator.
- 11) Question of how much time and effort a town expends to keep track of its community power performance and to interact with SP/GE? Bob said the answer is completely dependent upon the town and its interest level. It could be as little as a couple hours per month to enter monthly data (provided by SP/GE) onto a town website. Or it could be a lot more for a town interested and inclined to be deeply involved with their electric power procurement program, conservation programs, etc. My own opinion (Matt Miller) is that someone on the energy committee will spend around 5% of their time (2 or 3 hours per week) once a Community Power program is operational if we are active and taking full

advantage of the program and help Pembroke and its residents continually benefit from Community Power.

12) What is the SP/GE elevator pitch?

- a) SP/GE has the experience of doing Community Power already.
- b) SP/GE protects communities from time and risk for electric power supply (not transmission etc).

13) How will SP/GE work with CPCNH? It is wide open now and not solved. It is possible that SP/GE could provide services to CPCNH, or it could elect to price itself out of the market (for providing services to CPCNH). A likely outcome is that the current mode of CPCNH and SP/GE being respectful competitors will prevail.

Follow up discussion following the SP/GE presentation by Bob Hayden

1. Karen is trying to get us on the September 22 Select Board meeting agenda. If we do get on that agenda, she recommends we are prepared with the following.
 - a. A 15 minute presentation (with hand outs) that focuses on high level description, key points, without getting into minute details.
 - b. 15 minutes of Q&A
 - c. Provide our written document at that meeting.
2. The PEC must meet before the September 22, 2021 select board meeting so that we can come to agreement upon the recommendation we will make to the Pembroke Select Board.
 - a. We need to reaffirm our agreement that we want to recommend Pembroke create an Community Power Committee to develop a community power plan. If that plan were to be considered in the 2022 town meeting cycle, it sounds like we would need it developed and entered as a warrant article by late January or early February 2022.
 - b. We need to decide which Electricity Aggregator (CPCNH or SP/GE) to recommend we work with to develop our Community Power Plan.
 - i. CPCNH would include signing the JPA and nominating a Town member to be appointed to the CPCNH board of directors.
 - ii. SP/GE, would include signing their MOU.
 - c. Both Electricity Aggregators have to follow the same RSA 53-E.1, so the initial Community Power Plans would likely bring similar benefits.

Summary of August 30, 2021 Action Items:

3. Matt to ask Bob Hayden, President of Standard Power to present its community power offering to our next committee meeting. Currently, we are evaluating September 7 and September 16 as options. DONE, meeting held September 7, 2021
4. Richard will follow up with David Jodoin to access all of Pembroke municipal energy bills. These bills will help the energy committee understand where the largest energy consumption is and help us prioritize conservation activities. In Progress
5. Matt and Richard to attend LES conference October 8, 2021. Planned

NEW ACTION ITEMS

1. Matt to draft Standard Power Net Metering plan and review with Bob Hayden for correctness.
2. Richard to schedule a new PEC meeting before the September 22 Select Board meeting, so that we may form an agreement on what is our Community Power recommendation to Pembroke Select Board.
3. Richard will ask David Jodoin status of Lawyer's review of the CPCNH JPA. Matt is available to meet or have a call to provide context, background and answer questions.
4. Karen to follow up with the Select Board regarding whether we are on the September 22 agenda.
5. Matt will attend the Sept 22 Select Board meeting to be available for any informal comments or discussion.

Meeting adjourned 20:52.

Next Meeting TBD, 19:00, Pembroke NH Town Hall.