



# TOWN OF PEMBROKE

Town Hall ~ 311 Pembroke Street, Pembroke, New Hampshire 03275

Tel: 603-485-4747

## Pembroke Energy Committee

May 24, 2021

6:00 PM

***Due to COVID-19 social distancing orders made by the Governor and recommendations by the CDC, the Town of Pembroke, following a Declaration of Emergency by the Energy Committee Chair, is providing meeting participation via teleconference in the interest of public health and safety.***

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### **Declaration of Emergency**

#### **Call to order/Attendance**

1. Nomination of Chairman
2. Nomination of Vice Chairman
3. Discussion items
  - a. Community Power Coalition of NH – potential Pembroke involvement and what is needed for Selectboard approval
  - b. Energy Committee funds
  - c. New solar installation details – who operates, maintenance details/costs, generating capacity, etc.
  - d. Future initiatives around solar power/ battery storage on town property
4. Any other business
5. Adjournment

## May 24, 2021 Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting started at 18:00 eastern time.

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

Richard read an opening statement—declaration of emergency, electronic meeting standards, open access meeting platform.

Role call: Richard, Karen, Jackie (with child), Pentti, JJ, and Matt – all present online

Karen Yeaton—Selectman, assigned to energy committee

Richard Wengenroth—nominated for committee chairman. Role call vote—unanimously approved (JJ, Matt, Jackie, Pentti, Karen).

Pentti Aalto—nominated for vice-committee chairman. Role call vote-- unanimously approved (JJ, Matt, Jackie, Richard, Karen).

Matt Miller volunteers to take notes and circulate to others. The meeting minutes need to be accepted at the beginning of the next meeting.

**ACTION ITEM: Karen Yeaton will ask David Jodoin for legal requirements for meeting minutes.**

### Community Power Coalition discussion

1) Matt shared notes from the CPCNH.org May 4 and May 13 meetings.

1. Those two recorded meetings can be accessed at these links:

1. <https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/1532197355853423628>
2. I am asking for a link to the May 13 Q&A session if it was recorded. I cannot find a link at this time.
3. The next meeting is May 25 at noon:  
<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6492165776699081230>

2. CPCNH.org has been establishing legal frameworks for community power aggregation and related activities.

3. Joining requires a significant amount of due diligence and planning by a community. A community should clearly define what it wants to accomplish by joining CPCNH and confirm that CPCNH is an effective organization to achieve those accomplishments before fully joining CPCNH.org.

4. There are two phases to joining CPCNH.org. Phase 1 is at no cost and no obligation to the community, and enables it to access shared resource while it evaluates and determines whether to join and commit to the Joint Powers Agreement. Phase 2 is full membership, with access to more shared services and economies of scale, but also costs and obligations of membership.

5. complete notes are at the end of these meeting minutes.

**2) ACTION ITEM—recommend committee members listen to the May 4 and May 13 recordings.**

- 3) ACTION ITEM—Matt to obtain details of process for a town to join CPCNH as a Phase 1 member in order to learn more and perform due diligence. Ideally, learn this information before the June 16 Selectman meeting.
- 4) Various brief discussions on topics related to tactics to reduce peak electricity demand, purchasing locally generated electricity, inviting CPCNH people to present to committee and Selectmen, etc.
- 5) Pentti gave example of the need for residential customers to optimize use of heat pump, oil furnace, other devices, to manage home temperature. This topic and others would be useful for community members to understand and apply for their personal benefit, as well as collectively for town energy cost benefit.
- 6) JJ points out that Pembroke will almost certainly not impact how energy policies evolve, yet can effectively react to changes as long as we understand how energy policies evolve slowly over time.
- 7) Richard asks that people email him thoughts on future initiatives around solar power and battery storage on town properties, or any other energy project ideas.

#### Energy Committee Funds

1. No budget has been allocated to the energy committee. Projects can be proposed to the Selectman board and then the board can facilitate access to funds. Possibly via a capital reserve fund/cost match projects.
2. JJ recalls some small trust fund set up in the past. There is no information in hand about the scope of such a trust fund, or whether any money has been approved to be deposited into that fund, or what is the mechanism for getting permission to withdraw funds.
3. ACTION ITEM: Karen will investigate and ask the town budget committee what information they can find on the topic of a capital reserve trust fund.

#### New Solar Installation Details

1. Olivewood Energy will develop around 60 or 70 acres of farmland opposite high school with a solar farm capable of generating up to 17.5 MW electrical power. This energy committee would like to learn more.
2. In addition to the technicalities, the committee would like to know the status of subscribers to the solar farm generated electricity, and what it could look like for Pembroke to be a customer in the event that Pembroke developed or joined a community electricity aggregation plan like CPC.
3. ACTION ITEM: Karen will find a link to Olivewood Energy's presentation to the town of Pembroke.
4. ACTION ITEM: JJ will ask one of Olivewood Energy principals whether they could present and discuss that solar project with the Energy Committee during its next monthly meeting (June 21, 18:00 at the Pembroke Town Hall).

Next meeting: June 21, 18:00 at the Pembroke Town Hall

Meeting adjourned around 19:00.

Appendix—Matt Miller's notes from CPCNH May 4 meeting and May 13 Q&A session.

All:

Here are some additional notes that I captured from the recorded CPCNH meeting that was prior to the May 13 meeting.

1. What is community power?
  1. NH cities towns and communities procure electric power supply on behalf of their residents and businesses and provide related customer services (local programs, net energy metering, supply rates, etc)
    1. pooled purchasing power for energy supply, build and generate own electrical power
    2. utility continues to deliver power
    3. communities benefit from value added programs and services (These have not been defined nor quantified)
    4. Note: customers may switch back to utility default supply or take service from a competitive supplier
2. The Community Power Coalition is a statewide public non-profit that provides:
  1. technical services to committees, statewide peer network, and legal document templates (enabling resolutions, electric aggregation plans, public education materials)
  2. shared services (vendor vetting, electricity procurement and portfolio risk management, contract management, local power generation programs)
  3. This item came across as a priority--local projects, such as community solar and storage project development, joint power solicitations and economies of scale
3. Community Power Roadmap: Homework--read the Joint Powers Agreement document on the CPCNH website
  1. Join the coalition
    1. how does a community join the coalition?
      1. a local governing body votes to adopt the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA is a contract among local governments agreeing to delegate specific authorities to the agency under the terms of the agreement).
    2. Phase 1 coalition membership--enables cities and towns to benefit from the peer to peer resource sharing while they develop their plan, perform due diligence, etc. there are no coalition fees at this point, except legal fees to review contracts and documents necessary to join the coalition.
    3. Phase 2 coalition membership--access to shared services and economies of scale for launching community power programs, procuring electricity, operating the program for new project developments, implementing local programs and engaging at the legislature and public utility commission on public advocacy and market reforms
  2. form a community power committee
    1. committee is responsible for drafting a community power plan (or electric power aggregation plan).
    2. it should discuss and understand local issues and collect data
      1. what will be the local governance, policies and objectives of the program.
      2. receive aggregate electric load data from distribution utilities
      3. finalize draft community power plan

4. hold public hearings and incorporate feedback and adopt into the community power plan
3. adopt/approve a community power plan
4. Cost sharing--who pays?
  1. communities do not pay up front fees to join the coalition and launch a community power program. All costs are recovered from the rates set by members after program launch
    1. My question--> how to manage the costs of CPC non-profit group? How to keep it from becoming an unwieldy, expensive bureaucracy?
  2. There is a cost sharing agreement that outlines three types of costs that the CPC organization may incur.--these costs are to be recovered through electricity sales.
    1. member services--community selects from a menu of services available.
    2. direct projects--only accrue to communities that elect to join a project
    3. General and administrative costs
5. How can CPC support prospective members?
  1. schedule a meeting between coalition municipal staff and officials
  2. schedule a Joint Powers Agreement consultation with legal council (there likely will be legal fees to perform this consultation)
  3. schedule a presentation to brief your city council or selectmen
  4. prepare recommendations for your select board to:
    1. review and vote on the Joint Powers Agreement
    2. form a Community Power Committee
  5. Schedule a community power plan consultation
6. An important first step for Pembroke will be to understand what are the reasons why Pembroke would want to join CPCNH. What does the community want to accomplish? How to quantify and assess, and can those aims be achieved via CPCNH? How would Pembroke describe its ideal future energy situation?
  1. grid modernization?
  2. net metering?
  3. cost reduction?
  4. electric power reliability?
  5. local power generation?
  6. environmental profile change of electricity sources?
  7. something else?
7. other notes
  1. Net metering is a big topic, but there currently is no NH solution for how to empower and accommodate net metering for customers (people selling their residential generated electricity back to the grid). A step towards net meeting requires improving the relationship between Liberty, Eversource and the communities.
  2. House Bill 315--protects and expands community power authorities
  3. Senate Bill 91--part 4 of the bill is a key part to enable local power generation by creating a marketplace for community power to buy power directly from local 1 to 5 MW power generators.
  4. key personnel that initiated CPCNH (I believe)
    1. Clifton Below--wants to enable grid modernization and more sustainable and renewable electricity sources
    2. Samuel Golding--expert in community power coalitions
    3. Michael Postar--lawyer involved in the CPCNH documents
    4. Julia Griffin, Doria Brown, April Salas, Roa Bouchard

Talk to you soon,  
Matt

### **Notes from May 13, 2021 CPCNH meeting**

Here are my notes from the May 13 CPCNH webinar. There are a number of holes in my notes where I still lack the background knowledge and context.

2. Joshua Singer and Henry Herndon were the Clean Energy NH host and co-host respectively. Joshua's contact email is [joshua@cleanenergyNH.org](mailto:joshua@cleanenergyNH.org) and volunteered to connect participants with others.
3. There were over 20 participants from community energy committees. Two gentlemen dominated the answer part of Q&A, and I believe that they were invited for this purpose: Clifton Below and Samuel Golding.
4. This meeting was just a Q&Q roundtable and did not get into details of the purpose of the CPCNH nor the details of how it would facilitate local energy aggregation and what is the business model. There will be a May 25 noon meeting to go through this information--unfortunately, I will be on an airplane at that time, but expect the meeting to be recorded. Here are a few bullets I noted from comments.
  1. CPCNH.org is hoping to create more choice for residential and small businesses to source their electric power.
  2. ISO NE remains the wholesale electricity market manager.
  3. lots of discussion about the load serving entity, which is a middle man committed to providing a specific amount of electric power.
  4. There is an element of this concept that enables a municipality to generate its own power and sell that power into its own market.
  5. Individuals can opt out of the community power plan.
  6. There will be no statewide coordination of energy aggregation plans; it is all at a town municipality level.
  7. Experience so far is that local transmission utilities do not care who is supplying the electric power over their power line network. They will still recover electric power transmission costs and maintain the power line infrastructure as they currently do.
5. A community may join the coalition in a preliminary phase at no cost and no risk in order to develop its energy aggregation program and share the CPCNH services. Once you develop your program and join fully or formally, then costs start--nobody was able to describe what these costs were at this time.
6. The development of community energy aggregation plan programs is largely a legal exercise. This is a topic that requires a lot of due diligence and legal advice. Clifton Below and Samuel Golding know this topic inside and out. It sounds like Clifton worked for several years to create two or three legal frameworks that can be adopted by towns after town legal council review. Those documents are the Joint Powers Agreement, a cost sharing agreement, and possibly one other that I did not capture.
  1. The current version of these documents are final and not subject to change.
  2. These documents provide structure and protection to the community.
  3. A municipal lawyer should review the documents. Then, if acceptable, a group like an energy committee could recommend to a town the adopt the

documents. Then a governing body (selectmen??) could approve and authorize a city/town manager to sign the documents. After signing, they become a binding contract.

4. Clifton says there is an exit ramp to get out of the contract with no financial obligations--with caveats that were not discussed.
7. Hanover, Nashua and Lebanon energy aggregation plans will be on line soon so that we could look at those.

Miscellaneous other notes.

- exemption from statewide utility property tax (I think this is an option that a municipality can extend to a local power generation facility).
- communities may be able to extend a property tax exemption to small generation facilities (<5MW) if the property owner installs the utility. There is a bill in the state congress to allow 3rd parties to gain access to that tax exemption if it passes. This topic came out of a discussion regarding how communities generate revenue from local power generation, and related discussion about renewable energy tax exemptions in NH.
  - My own opinion is that Pembroke should receive some reasonable financial benefit from any business development within its borders.
- Samuel made some comments about an inability to verify that you receive electric power from the source you specify you want it generated due to how the northeast electrical grid (any grid) is managed. He did not go into details, but I believe it is as simple as the fact that the supply and load must be perfectly balance across the grid at all times. The grid can change its mix of inputs from (nuclear, coal, gas, oil, biomass, wood, solar, wind, hydroelectric, etc) but it cannot route the electrons from any specific source to specific end users.

That is all for now.

Talk to you soon,  
Matt